COPIES

FROM

A CORRESPONDENCE,

&c. &c.

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COPIES

FROM

A CORRESPONDENCE,

AND

SUBSTANCE OF COMMUNICATIONS,

WITH

MR. HUSKISSON, MR. PERCEVAL,

&c. &c.

ON THE SUBJECTS OF THE

WASTE AND ABUSES

IN THE

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS

AND

EXPENDITURE;

DEMONSTRATING TO THE PUBLIC, FROM REPORTED FACTS AND OFFICIAL ADMISSIONS, THE NECESSITY OF AN IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE CHANGE IN THE EXISTING SYSTEM

OF

MANAGING AND APPLYING THE REVENUE.

BY J. J. VASSAR, ESQ.

"If the Sums it costs to promote and to skreen Extravagance and Corruption were "applied to the discovery and the checking of them, it would save the Country "*Millions* and *Millions*."

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1810.

COPIES,

&c. &c.

On reading the following Statements, the Public will perceive a series of earnest and long-continued attempts to call the attention of His Majesty's Ministers to various and great Abuses in the Application and the Expenditure of the Revenue; and they will also perceive, with dissatisfaction, as well as regret, a disinclination and tardiness in the servants of the crown to correct those abuses, or to take that credit for Government, which every friend of the constitution must ever, and particularly in these times, be most anxious it should possess.

If the injustice and hardships, of which I have personally to complain, were not connected with matters *of the most immediate and important public concern*, I should have kept the retired path it has been my wish to walk in; but when I consider *that facts, in which the nation is deeply interested, are smothered*, and that severe private injury is the result of great public zeal, it appears to me a duty to encounter publicity, that the country may judge for itself, and that other individuals may not become sufferers by their exertions, as I have by mine.

It has seemed to me the best and properest way to print the papers in the order they were written, marking them as they were referred to, when transmitted to Mr. Huskisson, &c. &c. and such explanations and remarks as are necessary are printed as notes; so that the fact, and the illustration of it, may come, as nearly as possible, into view together.

A. No. 1.

1804.—Extracts from a Correspondence with the Right Hon. J. H. Addington, then Paymaster-General.

In February, 1804, J. J. Vassar wrote to Mr. H. Addington, stating, "he persuaded himself he had accurately ascertained facts, which pointed at some very material savings that might be made by Government, and desiring if his suggestions were adopted, a per centage on the sums saved;"—and Mr. Addington, on the 10th of February, 1804, in answer, said, "that he should not fail to pay attention to any written communications Mr. Vassar might think proper to make to him, and should they be adopted, could have no difficulty in promising adequate compensation."

The communications were accordingly sent, and had reference to the Commissariat, Ordnance, and Barrack Departments, &c. but in one instance only were detailed.

DETAIL.

"In these times, it appears highly desirable that the public burthens should be met as much as is expedient by public economy; and, although I may not think any individual competent to question the propriety of any establishments Government have thought necessary, it may be right to point at any supposed evils, or suggest any improvements in them."

"In the Commissariat Department a number of carriages have lately been built, for the purpose of conveying bread, &c. for the troops; and these waggons are drawn by three horses, at length; I saw them out, and I pledge myself to prove the third horse, in every possible situation and point of view, compleatly useless, nay, worse than useless; and that two horses are more than equal to the extreme weight these waggons are intended, or calculated to carry: one-third, then, of what may be now the expence of this establishment, may be saved, and with advantage to the service; for the third horse has no operation whatever but to lengthen the line of march, and by so doing, to impede it."

"The fact is accessible to your proof in ten minutes, and I cannot but think it strongly in favor

of this sort of retrenchment, that it interferes with no patronage, and deprives no one of his bread."

"The extent of this abstract saving, which I do not perhaps calculate as very great, may be ascertained and atchieved in an instant; but it is only a very small portion of what I consider saveable in this department; and *it should be taken into consideration also as part of a very extensive plan, by which it appears to me considerable sums might be borrowed, without any new taxes, or burthens on the public.*[1] And this letter then ended with the following statement relative to the Barrack Department:"

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[1] On the 16th of May, 1810, Mr. Huskisson, who had had this paper in his hand for near two years, stated in the House, "that it would be difficult to find new taxes; that there was a limit to taxation, which we had nearly reached; and that the Chancellor of the Exchequer must have felt this before he made up his mind to propose the mode, in which he intended to supply the means for the present year." He further observed, "that when Ministers had made up their minds to advise His Majesty to promise that the accounts should be made up with a rigid attention to economy, he thought considerable reductions were to have taken place; that some of the larger establishments were to be reduced."

And on the same day,

Mr. Rose observed, "that he felt strongly, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would present himself to the House NEXT session with a very bad grace, if he did not prove, that the utmost attention had been paid to economy."

"I have strong reason to think the Barrack Department calls loudly for the searching eye of power, and its controling hand. I dined, some time ago, in the neighbourhood of very extensive barracks, when one of the persons employed as a surveyor was there, and the anecdotes he gave, of the wanton and almost incredible extravagance of all the persons employed in these works, were of such a nature, and called forth such animadversions, as I should be extremely sorry were generally known. In making this communication, I act under the impression, that if this evil does exist, it is extremely desirable, in these times, that Government should be so acquainted with it, that its correction should originate there, and previous to any call on them to do it."

On the 10th of April, 1804, Mr. A—— wrote to J. J. V——, as follows:

"*Pay Office*, 10*th April*, 1804.

"Sir,

"I have looked over the papers you sent me, and am inclined to think some savings might be made in the Commissariat Department."

J. J. V—— then wrote to Mr. A—— stating, that he was desirous, for the purpose of getting full and specific information on some subjects, to make a progress through the eastern district, [see Paper marked A. No. 2.] and that he did not hesitate to say, that if Government would furnish him with the means of doing it, he should expect to lay before them an account of savings, that might be made, without making a single enemy, to the amount of at least 300,000l. per annum; observing, that if the detailed part of his plan was acquiesced in, these savings might be made the same instant, and his services would, in that case, precede the assistance he required to carry them on.

A change of administration took place at this time, when Mr. A—— wrote to J. J. V——, stating, "he had then no power of doing any thing in the business, but, if referred to, he was ready to say, that Mr. V. had suggested what appeared to him some useful improvements."

A. No. 2.

Copy of a Paper transmitted to the Right Hon. N. Vansittart, when Secretary to the Treasury, together with No. 1.

Views in the proposed progress through the Essex District.

GENERAL PLAN.

To ascertain every where the actual expence of the Commissariat, Ordnance, and Barrack Departments, (particularly) and other Military Establishments. To submit to Government such savings as suggest themselves, the grounds of the opinion, effects of establishments, substitutes, or other resources more economical. To sift contracts, and point at every appearance of a job.

PARTICULARS.

Bread Waggons, strength, and expence of establishment; what weight they carry; what use for any given time back; and what in prospect. What may be saved on any; the different views that can be taken of it.

Ordnance Department, including *Waggon Train*, the same. Barrack Department, expences, contracts, and state of repairs, &c. &c.

Much would doubtless be suggested, that Government might not acquiese in; but much, very unquestionably, that they would, and calculating on dispatch only, the advantages by this plan would be perhaps considerably greater than by any established mode of investigation.

A. No. 3.

1808.—COPY of a MEMORIAL transmitted to the Right Honorable S. PERCEVAL, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

To the Right Honorable Spencer Perceval, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Memorial of JAMES JOHN VASSAR, Esq.

Showeth,

"THAT in February 1804, your memorialist having then for some time been much in the way and in the habits of observing great and momentous waste in the army expenditure, wrote to the Paymaster-General, stating his belief, that he could point out to Government some important savings that might be made, and desiring, that if his suggestions were acquiesced in, a per centage on the sums saved; and that he was immediately honored with an answer, in which it was specifically declared, "That the 'Paymaster-General would not fail to pay attention to any communications your memorialist might think proper to make, and that he could have no difficulty in promising adequate compensation, if they were adopted."

" That in consequence of this letter, your memorialist did immediately communicate to the Paymaster-General a detailed statement of his observations relating to a branch of the Commissariat Department, namely, "the Bread Waggons;" and that your memorialist believes and understands the whole of that establishment, as far as his detailed statement pointed at has been done away."

" That your memorialist then stated to the Paymaster-General, that he considered and offered the detailed saving as a very small part indeed of what, according to his ideas and observations, might be saved by proper investigation of the expenditure of that department; and he next proceeded to state some facts concerning the Barrack Department, which induced him to believe an immediate and general inquiry into the expenditure of that department also was a most necessary, and would be a most salutary and popular measure."

" That your memorialist then farther suggested an inquiry into the Ordnance Department, &c. as connected with his plan, and made essential by his observations; and concluded with remarking, that he sincerely believed, that without injury to the service, sufficient savings might be made, to render it unne-

cessary to have recourse to any additional taxes, for the purpose of paying the interest of a fresh Loan."

"That your memorialist received a letter from the Paymaster-General in answer, in which he was pleased to say that he "had looked over his communications, and thought some savings might be made in the Commissariat Department."

"That your memorialist again wrote to the Paymaster-General, pressing on him the immense advantages that might arise from *local investigation of the existing abuses*, and requested assistance from Government to continue his researches through the eastern district, observing, if the detailed part of his plan was acquiesced in, the saving might be made at the same instant, and his services would in that case precede the assistance he asked to enable him to continue them."

"That the Paymaster-General, who soon after resigned the appointment, wrote to your memorialist, that "he had then no power of doing any thing in the business; but if referred to, he was ready to say your memorialist had suggested what appeared to him some useful improvements."

"That your memorialist did afterwards lay an abstract of the facts and of the letters before Mr. Vansittart, then Secretary to the Treasury, *(at his desire) urging the advantages and necessity of inquiry, suggesting the immense sums that might be saved by a local investigation of establishments and of contracts*, and soliciting to be remunerated and to be employed; he, your memorialist, considering he had claims, and believing that he could render farther and most important services."

"That these papers remained in Mr. Vansittart's hands as long as he remained in office, and were returned to your memorialist when he resigned."

"That all the subjects, to which your memorialist's suggestions had reference, have become objects of public interest, of parliamentary discussion, and of ministerial attention; and that though many savings his communications pointed at have actually been made, though subsequent establishments have been formed on the principles and for the purposes of them; aud though *it was admitted to him by a noble friend of his, (a member of administration) that "he had made his communications so early, and in such a way, that Government might have taken all the credit*

of the measure; and all the clamor that has arisen might have been avoided;" your memorialist remains without employment, and without that compensation he was distinctly promised, and which he considers himself most justly entitled to."

"That your memorialist throws himself with confidence on the justice of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, satisfied that whilst vast sums are made, and are making out of that immense waste of the revenue his suggestions were aimed to correct, and which they have unquestionably been, in some degree, already the means of correcting; that your memorialist's case and claims will not be thought unworthy his attention; and that your memorialist will be allowed a compensation agreeable to the promise, under which his communications were given to Government, and proportionate to the savings that have, or may be made, and to his merit in the early suggestion of them."

"That your memorialist most earnestly and anxiously solicits the attention of the Right Honorable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to his memorial, he, having now wasted four years in applications and expectancy, having suffered much private injury from having suggested certainly some public good,

and being in consequence much involved, and in much distress."

"And your memorialist's gratitude will be strong and indelible."

JAMES JOHN VASSAR.

March 29, 1808.

A. No. 4.

Copy of a Letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, sent with No. 3. and the answer.

J. J. V. to the Right Honorable the Chancellor of of the Exchequer.

Sir,

"Though all the facts stated in the accompanying memorial have reference to subjects of the highest public interest and importance, I should be content to submit them to you solely as an application for justice, satisfied from your constant and fixed habits of promoting it, no appeal to you will be unattended to, or made in vain."

"I beg leave to express my hope that my application will appear to you founded on fair and strong claims, whether (to use the words of Mr. Pitt) "*the good faith, which ought to be kept with individuals on the substantial interests of the country, are contemplated.*"

I have the honor to be, &c.

J. J. V.

March 29, 1808.

ANSWER.

Downing Street, April 2, 1808.

SIR,

"I am directed by Mr. Perceval to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ult. with its contents, and to inform you, that it is not in his power to take any cognizance of the claims for remuneration therein stated; it being quite impossible for him to estimate the originality or importance of any suggestions, which may have been communicated

to former administrations,[1] or to ascertain what benefits may have been actually derived to the public from such communications. I have the honor of returning herewith the enclosures above alluded to. &c. &c.

"J. C. HERRIES."

To J. J. Vassar, Esq.

A. No. 5.

Copy of Letter to William Huskisson, Esq. Secretary of the Treasury.

"*1st July*, 1808.

"Sir,

"I received this morning from a gentleman, whose name I have not the honor of knowing, the intimation to lay before you in this way, the substance of the business I had solicited the favor of stating to you personally, and I lose no time in doing it.

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[1] The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in stating the fancied difficulty in this letter, has distinctly admitted, (by anticipation) that he might, on due and fair inquiry, and without difficulty, have estimated the originality and importance of the suggestions I have communicated to Government, during his administration; and have ascertained what benefit may, or might, have been actually derived to the public from such communications.

"A memorial, similar to the enclosed, [A. No. 3.] having been submitted by me to Mr. Long, paymaster-general, he had the goodness to honor me with an audience on the business, on Wednesday morning, and to inform me the business was not in his department. By the accompanying document, [A. No. 4.] it will appear, that I had some time ago submitted a memorial also on the subject, to the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was not in possession of facts, some of his most highly-respected colleagues will, I am sure, most readily furnish him with; and my hopes, that the answer transmitted to me by his direction will not be considered as final and decisive, rest on the persuasion it will be felt, that "*communications made to Government for the public advantage, and under official pledge, can have no connection with any particular administration, but stand on the broad and strong ground of general interest and public faith;*" and though it certainly may be well supposed, that the whole benefits that have, or might have been derived, by the public, from the communications then and so made by me, cannot now be actually ascertained, I think it will be obvious, that much (and for instance, the detailed saving in the Commissariat Department) is capable of immediate and distinct proof.

"I have to hope, too, that having, *at Mr. Vansittart's desire*, laid my case and the facts before him, that there may be some official minutes that may operate in my favor, and my object in soliciting the honor of an inverview was, the hopes of showing that my applications, both for compensation and employment, connect closely with the public interest; the first by the *encouragement desirable to be given, even where no promises were made, to suggestions admittedly useful;* and the other, *because if the facts stated exhibit those habits, applications, and talents, that may give some effect to the system they pointed out, and which is in adoption, I may be materially useful.*

"It is every way my duty, therefore, to state, that by many years bearing on the subject, with a mind not inactive, nor, as I hope, frivolous, I am induced to think, both *by the admissions made to me, and the facts that have come under my observation,* that I am fully equal to it; and whilst I am persuaded *I could assist greatly in carrying into execution the system I suggested*, I am without a doubt the *compensation I am promised may be made to me with general assent and approbation; and I should be contented with half the per centage on the*

sums actually saved, that has been charged on sums positively wasted.[1]

"Severely *a sufferer by admitted services, in more cases than one, and on some occasions, where my conduct received the strongest approbation of several members of the present Government,* and worn down with the anxiety, and the expences of advancing applications, as I hope, and am told, not wholly without pretensions, I have to solicit most earnestly your early attention; and I beg now permission to add, with the sincerity you will perceive in this letter, the assurances of the high respect with which I have the honor to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient,

"And most humble Servant,

"JAMES JOHN VASSAR."

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[1] It will be obvious, that many millions might and would have been saved to the public, and that the compensation I should have received, agreeable to the promise made me, would, long ago, have amounted to a very important sum.

A. No. 6.

Copy of a Note from Mr. Huskisson.

"Mr. Huskisson presents compliments to Mr. Vassar, will be happy to see him on Tuesday, at twelve o'clock, at the Treasury, should that day and hour prove convenient to him."

20th August, 1808.

B. No. 1.

Copy of a Paper laid before Mr. Huskisson, the 1st of September, 1808.

1st September, 1808.

Mr. V. avails himself of Mr. Huskisson's permission to lay before him, in addition to, and in support of his memorial,—1st. the copy of his letter to Mr. Addington, to which the pledge and the admission of Government refer, [A. No. 1.]—and 2dly. the other paper left by him with Mr. Vansittart; [A. No. 2.] and before he proceeds to the more extended and full statements Mr. Huskisson has desired him to make, and which the

sudden resignations of former administrations, he has had the honor to communicate with, prevented him then doing, he begs leave to observe, that in *the year* 1804, *when he first made his communications to Government, savings to the amount of One Million per annum, at least, might, as he conceives, have been made, in the expenditure to which they had reference.*

On proceeding to state to Mr. Huskisson the grounds on which J. J. V. conceives a NO LESS SUM might now be saved by *a decided and extended economy*, it appears in his way to observe, that giving to the Commission of Military Inquiry all the credit it has so well acquired, he remains of the opinion he has always expressed, that much greater, and much prompter savings would be made by *his plan of investigation;* and that Government would acquire by it the very momentous advantage of deriving popularity from a measure, that has not led, and does not lead, by its mode of operations, to that effect.

Taking, as *the foundation of his system and calculations, the probability of almost every branch of the expenditure furnishing, on close investigation, some savings*, he estimates the aggregate produce

of the items at *not less* than the sum he has stated; and the nature of them varying, he has classed them under three heads.[1]

1st. Objectionable Establishments.

2nd. Waste arising from Abuses.

3d. Bonâ fide, but, perhaps, unnecessary Expence.

It is needless to point out to Mr. Huskisson, that it is the system only, and not the details, that can be *fully* shown; and under the first head it will be sufficient for J. J. V. to state, for example, that he classed the establishment, to which his communications in 1804, referred in detail, namely, the "*Bread Waggons*," &c. and that *he pointed to the* "*Waggon*

[1] On the 26th of February, 1810, "Mr. Huskisson expressed himself disappointed at the Army Estimates, every item of which ought to have been fixed with a regard to the strictest economy; he considered a considerable diminution in our Military Expenditure essential, if not indispensible, to the existence of the country; almost every head of expence appeared to him excessive."

Train;"[1] *conceiving, if the expenditure of that establishment was brought into comparison with its actual and probable services,* and the local information and opinion relative to it, where it has been stationed, were considered, *it would be found to be something more than useless, something worse than unnecessary.*

On the second head, it is impossible, without referring to the accounts, to enter on the detail; *the subject is too general and too extensive.* J. J. V. however, instances the facts stated in his letter to

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[1] *Extracts from the Reports of the Debates on the Army Estimates, 26th February,* 1810.

With regard to the Waggon Corps, Mr. Huskisson agreed "they were an annoyance on Foreign service, and useless at home,"

Lord Palmerston stated, "that the Waggon Train, which consisted of twelve troops, were now reduced to seven; it had been considered, that the numbers were greater than was necessary for the benefit of the service, and five troops had been discontinued; with a just attention, therefore, to the interest of the service, and public economy, a saving would be thus made of 23,433l. per annum."

Lord G. Gower observed, "Lord P—— had stated the reduction of five troops, but had given no reason for continuing the other seven; in point of fact, he, Lord G. G. had been told they were not an useful corps.

Mr. Addington, relative to the Barrack Department; and the contracts with Mr. Willan, and Sir Henry Mildmay, which he had also particularly in his view. It will appear, from Mr. V's. statement, that he considered, (and he considers) *the waste enormous*, and *the savings*, that might be made, *immense.*

The third head requires to be touched on with more diffidence and delicacy; but he has stated, that his system and calculations are founded on the probability of almost every branch of the expenditure, furnishing, on close investigation, some savings.

Perhaps something might be saved, without any injury to the service, by a systematic mode, as much as possible, of changing the quarters of the troops; for instance, a regiment is sent from Weely, in Essex, to Devonshire, and another from the North to the South, the charge for Baggage-Waggons is considerable;—would not short removes answer all the purposes, and something be saved?

Might not some of the Regimental Stores be made local stores, and something saved that way?

What weight do the Artillery Ammunition Cars, or Tumbrils, carry? Do they carry as much as four horses are well equal to? And might not this service be to the full as well performed, were there a reduction of one-third in the expence?

J. J. V. refrains from saying much on this division of his subject; and though he has the satisfaction of knowing, that *some of his suggestions* have been adopted by Government, and that his sentiments, on various public subjects, have been sanctioned by the highest authorities, he is fully aware, that much of his *opinion* will probably be found erroneous; and he trusts to Mr. H's. goodness to give credit to his zeal, where it may not be due to his communications.

J. J. V.

B. No. 2 and 3.

EXTRACTS from REPORTS made to Mr. HUSKISSON for the use of Government, in 1808 and 1809.

No. 1. Immediately under the Eleven-gun battery at Eastbourne, (within about fifty or sixty yards of it) one is now erecting for three guns, stated here to be building chiefly, if not wholly, for the volunteers of this place (about 100) to practise; and it does appear to exhibit no possibility, however designed, of being of any other service.

It was began some months ago, and will take considerable time and expence to complete it.

The supposed expence is laid at 2000l. The parties who conceive it intended for them seem surprized; and it is spoken of generally in the strongest terms of disapprobation: in truth, be the intention of it what it may, it has the semblance of a job; for on the other side of it, and at about the same distance the eleven-gun battery, so recently built at such immense expence, stands, are the remains of an old one, convertible, at little or no expence, to any service the one now erecting seems applicable to.

The volunteers, at present, practise in Langley-Fort,

No. 2.—Previous to building the Martello-towers, &c. a chain of small batteries were erected along the coast. They became of course useless when the towers were built; and the guns were removed from them more than a year ago. They appear to have been for two guns each. The platforms of most, if not all, remain, and the small magazines of many. The platforms are of four inch (or near) oak plank, fifteen feet square: the magazines about six and a half foot square, deal boards. They must have cost Government a considerable sum, and considering the value of timber here are worth prompt attention. They are left open to all sorts of dilapidation, and have apparently suffered much in every way. They might all be preserved, or disposed of, for the use of Government, in a few weeks, and without expence.

There are some buildings of much larger dimensions in the same state.

No. 3.—The chain of dilapidating buildings, of one sort or other, continues to Hastings, and on again to Rye. The aggregate amount on this line only, of wasting property, must be considerable;

and, if the inquiry is followed up generally, will doubtless be found very important. The horses on the fatigue duty may *well* be used to collect those materials for sale or preservation; and a few working parties from the regiments on the stations would complete the business in a very short time.

The fact J. V. trusts will sanction the remark, that when a saving is decided to be made, or an abuse to be corrected, the order should be prompt and public. In this case, and particularly also with regard to the battery now erecting at Eastbourne, the decision of Government might have a material effect on the public mind.

J. V. has seen, in the course of his progress, two classes of horses, both furnishing now precisely the same observations he had made some years ago.

Those supplied by Mr. Willan (on such terms, that the advantages to the contractor must, as they are known to be, be enormous) are certainly not equal to a fair day's work, and are certainly doing even less than they are equal to.

The other description of horses (somewhat worse

than W's) belong to Government, and are sent from the artillery service, to what is called fatigue duty.

The return of a month's work, of any given number, would furnish some very *decisive facts.* In truth they are unfit for work: twelve good horses would do greatly more than eighteen such as these. Of course one third *of the forage expence would be saved.*

A source of *very material saving* presents itself here; and the *subject* connects with *others* worthy of investigation.

It may be proper to state that J. J. V. was told some years ago, that Government had, from an unsteadiness of calculation, positively thrown away at once about 20,000l. in and beyond this contract; and his present inquiries confirm the information he formerly received.

No. 4. My statement is, that nearly the whole expence of these horses, be it what it may, is a wasteful and unnecessary one, there being scarce a horse in the number, I believe not one, worth its

keep, and many are completely incapable of any work.

The credit of putting an end to all this would be proportionate to the glaring necessity there seems for doing it. *The saving of the hire, and in the forage, would amount to* AN IMMENSE *sum.*[1]

The sum to be picked up by the sale of neglected, overlooked, and dilapidating buildings, &c. is important, whether considered in a pecuniary point of view, or, as a means of obtaining credit and popularity. The statement given by ——— on this subject is, " that he hardly knows in whose care these materials were left, after they became useless by the removal of the guns, &c. that nobody seemed to attend to them; that they appeared to be unthought of entirely, and under no particular person's observation."

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[1] On the 16th of March, 1810, Mr. Banks, in finding fault with the extravagance in the military expenditure, particularly pointed at a great saving that might be made in district horses; and Mr. Huskisson agreed, that very considerable savings might be made. Mr. Ashley Cooper too, had some days before said, " that with respect to the estimate for draught horses, *three thousand six hundred* out of *six thousand* were employed in Great Britain. It might be said that was too great a number to keep up; they were necessary however, if it was only to exercise the drivers!!!"

Say that the sum to be picked up in this way may not be a material one, yet the favorable impression the doing it would have on the public mind renders the doing of it important, it being a general observation in the neighbourhood of them, that "the state of dilapidation they are in is really quite shameful to see."

Without presuming to enter on the question how far the "system of localized defence," in an island like this, is the one on which, in case of invasion, it would have to depend; it has come within the line of my inquiries to collect information relative to the *vast* works of that description that have come within my view, as far as connects with their expence, which must be enormous; and I feel less uneasiness in submitting to you my observations, as one, I did consider worthy some notice, has been subsequently sanctioned by the opinion of a General Officer: as that opinion, which relates to the eleven-gun battery, noticed in my first report, expresses exactly what I had thought, I give it you in his words: "It appears quite a useless thing; a single martello-tower would have been quite as well:" and if the immense expence of the building is also taken into consideration, it certainly would have been a much better.

I take the liberty of suggesting two (not unimportant (questions on this subject. 1st. Whether the building has not already shown some symptoms of unsoundness? And, 2dly. If a heavy firing was to take place, the guns being shotted, it would stand the concussion?

I heard when at Rye, that one of the Martello towers in that neighbourhood had been materially sapped and damaged by the water; but I do not vouch for this fact.

Believing, from what I have seen, that *half a million* at least is *wasted annually* in the *Ordnance Department*, and that probably *more than double that sum might be saved in its expenditure*,[1] I am led by motives, the honesty of which is the excuse for the presumption, to glance at the expediency and the *necessity of some controuling power being vested in the Treasury, over the vast sum it has to raise and to issue for that service; and I attach infinitely more importance to such a regulation than to*

[1] On the 6th of March, 1810, on the debates on the Ordnance Estimates, Mr. Wellesley Pole said, "there was no doubt considerable saving in this year's expenditure compared with the last, nearly a million and a half."

any suggestion that has been offered either by the Committee of Finance, or the Commissioners of Military Inquiry.[1]

No. 5.—Mr. Willan, it appears, is allowed three shillings per day for each of his horses; and a certain sum (20l. I believe) for every one that dies.

Eighteen capital horses are furnished for some artillery here, at the same rate per day; and (I understand) there is no allowance for any one that dies.

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[1] On the 26th of February, 1810, Mr. Huskisson remarked in the House, "that the great fault in our expenditure proceeded from a want of power of superintendance over the several departments; there was a radical fault in the general arrangements of expenditure, which often rendered it difficult to discover those evils that could only be corrected by the establishment of the controuling power he alluded to." And Mr. Rose concurred with Mr. H. "as to the propriety of every practical retrenchment, and of subjecting the public expenditure to some controuling power; in fact, one hand only should go into the public purse."

On the 16th of March following, Mr. Huskisson observed, "that if the controul over the expenditure of the ordnance had always been adhered to, it would have saved great sums to the country."

A contractor for that district stated to J. J. V. that he had offered to supply the forage for these eighteen horses at two shillings and a penny per day each, (and he might). They are fed, it is probable, therefore, at something less.

Feeding at that rate, however, leaves elevenpence per day for the hire of each horse; and the dung is worth about one shilling per week, which brings the allowance for hire to more than one shilling per day.

By this calculation, the hire of each horse may be taken at 20l. per annum.

But Mr. W. feeds them under no regulations, restrictions, or *controul;* and 5l. per annum may be well added to the hire account of each horse from the savings in the forage.

This brings the hire of those horses, not one of which is completely effective, and whose average value cannot much exceed half what is allowed for them if they die, to 25l. per annum; and I have seen many wretched objects that had been two years in the service.

The *hire* of 12 of these horses amounts, for two years, to 600l, which would buy twenty good effective horses, at 30l. each.

But I assert that eight good horses would do more work than twelve of Mr. W.'s.

The calculation is then as follows:

		£.	s.	d.
" Hire of 12 miserable, non-effective horses, " for two years - - - -		600	0	0
" Forage for ditto - - - - -		710	8	0
		1310	8	0
" Cost of 8 good horses at 30l. each,	£240 0			
" Forage for ditto - - -	473 12	713	12	0
" Loss to the public by this contract, in every " 12 horses - - - - -		596	16	0

One man (I understand) is allowed to every three horses, and they are pretty much of the same description. These men (I believe) are paid thirteen shillings per week, and sixpence per day extra

[1] J. J. V.'s objection is not that Mr. W. is enriched by this most improvident contract, but that the country is loaded with such a wasteful and useless expence.

when they are employed in any work besides driving: I believe Mr. W. has this little job along with the rest.

No. 6.—The Ordnance Department, wasteful beyond measure throughout, imputes to the Engineer branch that extravagance and neglect, with which the country charges the whole establishment.

Both the country and the ordnance are right: Vast as is the waste in the other branches, that of the engineer branch appears to outgo all calculation.

From the very spot where the eleven-gun battery at Eastbourne (mentioned in my former reports) is commanded, the eye takes in a recent, unclosed expenditure, of a separate distinct nature from the general one, of more than half a million.

If the principle of this expence is acceded to, it is then certainly important to inquire if it is carried into effect with due economy, and without waste.

It appears to me, and to every one I have spoke to, so far otherwise, as to justify a presumption that a full third might have been saved.[1]

If the opinion of the General officer, that a martello tower would have been a better thing than the eleven-gun battery is correct, then the difference in the expenditure, which is stated to me at greatly more than 100,000l. is all waste.

But this eleven-gun battery is considered as commanded.

It is much doubted if the mortar (which has been wetted with salt water) is proper and good.

If it would bear the firing of the guns, when shotted?

If the magazines are not too damp, too small, and insecure; and if there is not a very great probability of the sea water penetrating,

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[1] On the 14th of March, 1810. Mr. Wellesley Pole said, "that on the recommendation of General Twiss, a Mr. Hodson was employed to superintend the building of the martello towers, on a per centage, and did the business to the satisfaction of General Twiss." Thus it appears that a premium has been held out to extravagant expenditure, whilst remuneration has been with-held from economical suggestions.

And in support of these suggestions, these facts are obvious.

The building, round the parapet, has several small cracks in various parts; the mortar has not bound there, and the bricks were loose.

The walls are thickly covered with salt, of which, quantities may be seen and collected in all parts; and some shot I took up in the casemates were completely wet.

The *shingle bank lately made is scarcely two yards wide;* and the cellars of the houses at a much greater distance from the sea were all filled by it some time ago. The *battery at Hastings* has been completely washed away.

It seems, from all the doors, stores, and others, opening in the area, without any traverse, that a single shell might have the most decisive effect.

The water tanks are only supplied by what rain may happen to fall.

On these grounds, it may perhaps be a question, if the whole of this vast expence has not been thrown away.

Within about fifty yards of this Eleven-gun tower, on the town side, is the begun battery mentioned in my first report. *If this job is carried on, the volunteers will probably be disbanded before it is finished.*[1]

At five hundred yards, on the other side, stands the Martello, No. 72; and there are two others at the same distance from each other, between that and *Langley Fort;* the one, No. 70, being *within* about *one hundred yards* of the *Fort.* No. 69 is the same distance on the other side the Fort.

Of these four martello towers, No. 72 appears useless, 71 being completely within range of the eleven-gun battery; 70 is stated to be worse than useless, for 71 flanks the Fort better, and 69, being equally near on the opposite side, is open to the same objection. Here then three-fourths of the expence appears waste.

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[1] I understand that this has been actually the case.

It is to be remarked, that the whole coast road is so good that twelve-pounders might be brought along it at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour; and along this road is the range of dismantled batteries, where the dilapidating buildings and materials, mentioned in my former reports, remain unnoticed by Government. Much dilapidation has occurred since my report.

A fact of the most impressive nature presented itself to me; and *the information my inquiries produced was accompanied with some animadversions of serious import.*

A large quantity of *compound* for brick-making, and a considerable number of *decayed and decaying bricks,* took my attention, and the account given me of them was as follows:

When the martello-towers, &c. were begun building, an officer of the engineers came down and purchased a bit of ground for the purpose of making bricks, and some houses (now standing) were built for the workmen. Clay was dug and brought together at a vast expence, and ashes were collected for twenty miles round the country at an enormous price, and ship loads of them brought from London,

to mix with it. A most extraordinary quantity of this compound being collected, the work of brick-making was carried on rapidly for a length of time, till the department found out (or were made to find out) that they could purchase bricks at a cheaper rate. Brick-making then stopt; and these heaps of compound, and of bricks, are the remains of the collected and the manufactured materials. Of the compound there may be about fifteen hundred or two thousand loads left, which is now throwing wastefully about on the glacis of one of the martellos; and there may be about eighty or an hundred thousand bricks, nearly the whole of which are actually decomposed and dissolved. This I was told was owing to a fault in the burning, and thus it would be well for the country if all that have been used of them were now in this decayed heap. The composition, I am told, would sell for more than five shillings per load. Shame of the business, my informants said, prevented its being sold.

After these statements, trifling matters may not carry the importance that belongs to them, but they are of no small moment as part of a system.

Some *temporary* buildings (to no great extent) *having been found not water-proof, have been cover-*

ed in a very expensive way with new sail cloth tarred; and the palisades round a *very* small horse-hospital are reported to have cost a considerable sum more than was necessary, *if any was necessary.*

I cannot finish this report without recurring to *a subject, gone into in my former ones.*

I state distinctly, and from my own observation, a continuance of momentous *waste in the forage expence.* Ineffective horses are increased and increasing. *Part of Mr. Willan's have been taken into the artillery service, and they are not fit for it; and the half cast horses of that corps, worth about five pounds each, and which could not do a good day's work in three, do not do one in seven.*

Other immense savings might take place on a general principle.

Of the battery at Hastings I shall only *observe,* that the sooner every vestige of *that job* is got out of sight the better. At this moment the guns had better be any where than where they are.

(Memorandum.—1280lbs. of powder.—Smugglers.)

No. 7. Military Canal between Rye and Hythe: some improvements might, perhaps, have been suggested, and *much* of the expence might certainly have been saved; a third, for instance, at least, in the expence of inclosing. *A very censurable waste* of the public money appears likely to be occasioned by an error in the construction of the present bridges that are thrown across this canal, in number fifteen or twenty. It was *omitted to continue the towing path* under them; and for this reason, if my information is correct, which I have every reason to suppose it is, they are all to come down, and be rebuilt.

The hay and herbage on these works must produce a considerable sum.

Queries as to the Profits and Expences.—" See Dover."

The Martello-towers, near Folkstone, are open to my former remarks on these buildings; and *all* these remarks I have had the satisfaction of finding supported by the judgment of some very experienced officers in the Ordnance and Engineer services, whose opinions I have collected with due caution.

Dover Castle and heights presents throughout a scene of waste and extravagance, that cannot be credited without being seen; I feel it my duty to say, it is most desirable you should see it, for *every day's waste is enormous*, and every one that speaks of it, military men, and others, use exactly the same terms—"that it is a shame Government should be so imposed on."[1]

The principle of the expence is quite unintelligible to every military man I have conversed with; and it seems it would be necessary to extend the the plan incalculably to make it complete.[2]

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[1] On the debates on the Ordnance Estimates, on the 14th and 16th of March, 1810, Mr. Banks, in finding fault with the extravagance, forcibly pointed at articles charged under the head of Expences for the Defence of the Country; and Mr. Huskisson supported his remarks.

Mr. Ashley Cooper expressed a hope, "that the money already granted for the Works at Dover, would be sufficient for their completion."

[2] When I was at Dover, in the year 1779, vast sums were then expending in erecting batteries, and different works, of which there is not now, or has been for some years, the smallest vestige remaining; and, in much less time, there will be as little to show for the immense expenditure now going on there, and along the coast.

But if the principle even were correct, the details of waste and abuses is shocking.

The following are amongst the facts that are obvious, and stated to me:

The men that are employed in making the mortar, tell you plainly, that the materials are bad; and the fact is too well proved by the works. In many places the bastions, &c. are crumbling and giving way; I have picked bricks from them with my finger and thumb; and it appears very obvious, that the brick work, which supports the carriage of the guns, will not sustain the shock of their discharge; some of them, indeed, are already so gone to pieces, that the wheels are nearly off the traverse; and long before the works are completed, it would be necessary to begin again: but they will never be completed without a new system, and new arrangements, for, besides the constant dilapidation arising from the causes I have stated, buildings are reported to be pulled down, four or five times over, for no other obvious motive, but to lengthen the job. Whether this expence originates in ignorance or design, however, it is equally important to put a stop to it.

The working parties, some hundreds of men, and whose expence is considerable, go on in the slow, idle way, that marks every operation; and here, again, *the contract horses exhibit an expence treble the possible effect it can produce.* A person, long a resident, and officially an observer, told me, he would undertake to move, in half a dozen wheel-barrows, as much earth as five of these horses have drawn, to a given spot, in one day; and, it is to be observed, this earth was brought a considerable distance to cover *ground*, which has thus *cost Government nearly* 100 *guineas per rood; and whose chief, if not only use, is to furnish the engineer with a little additional hay:* add to this fact, that all the grass on the works is stated to be cut, and the hay made, at the expence of Government, for the sole profit of the engineer; and it will appear less astonishing, that these works are extended, than that they are suffered to go on without investigation, and without check. Government carriages and horses also, I understand, are employed in carrying this grass to a field, where the hay is made and stacked; and incalculable might the advantages to the public be, if it was taken, as it ought, to the public use.

I shall, at present, only add to my remarks here, that quantities of the bad bricks are now burying behind the facings of the works, and that the Keep is *slowly* coating with an expensive cement, which is considered unlikely to last more than two or three years.[1]

In my last report is a memorandum as follows: "1280lbs. of powder—Smugglers"—and I have been very anxious to state to you to what it referred—" In the Martello Tower, I saw, (and it is so, I understand, in others) this quantity of powder is placed; there is no guard, or person, near it, and it is protected only by the smallest and commonest kind of padlock; and there are ladders to all the doors." My ideas on this subject are conformable to those of a distinguished Post-Captain in the navy, to whom I mentioned it confidentially.

&c. &c.

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[1] I am informed this coating has already began to fall off from some parts.

Further Extracts from J. J. V's. reports to Mr. Huskisson.

No. 1. J. J. V's suggestions relative to the savings, by short and systematic movements of troops, (home-service of course,) have the following facts furnished in favor of them by the regiment here :—

	MARCHES	MILES.
In 1807.	From Exeter to Horsham,	
In 1808.	From Horsham to Eastbourne,	

The aggregate amount of such savings may be calculated in an instant from the official accounts; Government only can decide on the expediency of adopting them.

It will be remarked, it would be of no small importance, in point of private savings, to the corps.[1]

[1] This suggestion appears to have been adopted, and the advantages resulting from it are many, obvious, and important.

No. 2. In the parish of Fairlight, about three miles from Hastings, Government, it is stated, purchased, about three years ago, some land, for the purpose of *building* Barracks, called; and appearing to be, about twenty acres. Some timber was brought, and some brick earth dug; the first has been taken away again, and the other *remains*. J. V. was prevented, by the *mode of inquiry he was confined to*, from learning accurately the state of facts; but he inclines *to think the land still belongs to Government, from its being wholly neglected*, whilst all the adjoining is well cultivated, and highly productive. On this presumption he submits the following observations:—1st. That it is impossible to select a spot, where Government would have had to build at greater expence, or more disadvantage; it being almost inaccessible with materials, and every source of supply must have come into the expences. And, 2dly, that the land would let at about thirty shillings per acre, and sell at about fifty pounds.

This subject, though mentioned here as an abstract concern, appears to lead to, and to connect with, a more general inquiry, and to justify the expectation of important result from it. [See Crown Lands, No. 11 and 12.]

No. 3. The Commissariat Department had always presented itself to J. V. as a subject open to much remark, and it became more and more a particular object of his inquiry, by every fact, and every observation, that occurred.

In tracing its operations, he had never been able to discover its utility; and it appeared to claim consideration as an establishment, rather than in detail. The troops in the district he has been in, seem to have little connexion with it; the infantry, he believes, none. The regimental Paymaster, of both cavalry and infantry, it seems, pays the contractor, even where the Commissariat Department makes the contract; and the mode of doing this, where this office becomes a party, certainly exhibits a most fallacious principle, namely, that of having recourse to a complex machine, where a simple one would do the business.

If contracts are found to be made better in Town, and in the manner they now are, be it so; but it then becomes a question, whether all this business might not be very well done, without a separate and *expensive* establishment; and surely local tenders should, at any rate, be also received: many, and strong reasons, offer themselves, too, in favor of

local contracts, for besides the presumption, that *accounts may be confused by departments being multiplied*, it seems a self-evident proposition, that the more hands any thing passes through, in coming to the consumer, the higher will its price be.

On these grounds, and viewing this establishment, *(to say the least of it,)* as an expence without cause and without effect, knowing it to be unpopular, and considering it, from very extensively collected opinion, as uncongenial to the Country and the Army, as it appears useless, J. V. hazards an idea, he has long entertained, namely, that be its use on Foreign service what it may, at home it is completely unnecessary.[1]

No. 4. Part of the information alluded to in my letter of the ——, relates to the Commissariat Department, and goes to what seems, if proved, a

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[1] Mr. Huskisson did not seem disposed to enter on this subject, but observed, "that though it certainly was not a very effective department, it was considered useful as a check."

I, myself, think the honesty of the Army may be as much depended on, as that of the Commissariat; but, *even supposing it a check*, will the savings be equal to the expence?

very serious fact, and one that it is necessary to prevent the recurrence of, namely, "that in one instance only, forage, to the amount of about 20,000l. was furnished, (under the existing regulations,) for which the parties, who actually supplied it, never did, or will, receive sixpence."

This is offered as a shapeless and uncolored fact; but considering ALL the evils that must result, if such circumstances do occur, and the advantages that would attach to the prevention of them, it suggests *strongly* the necessity of investigation.

No. 5. *Many* sources of savings I had not the opportunity of *thoroughly* investigating, seem apparent in the Barrack and Commissariat Departments;[1] and CONTINUING to feel how *extremely* desirable it is, in these times, that Government should have the credit of correcting every existing abuse, I hope I shall be forgiven for REPEATING my humble opinion, *that without some prompt*

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[1] The Depots at Weedon Beck, Dartmoor, &c. were mentioned.

measure, a great part of that credit will either be frittered away to commissioners of one description or other, or, that the blots, which administration neglects to cover, will be hit by others, and what might be a ground for great popularity to be built on, become a foundation for clamor and disaffection.[1]

No. 6. Justice to myself requires I should state, that the main facts relative to the Foreign branch of the War Department contained in the late Military Report, were in my possession years ago, and that some others, and stronger ones, came also within my own knowledge.[2]

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[1] On the 14th of March, 1810, Mr. Huskisson said, "it might be asked, why he did not propose those retrenchments (he was recommending,) earlier; to that he ad to answer, that he had frequently pointed out the same topics to the consideration of those he acted with whilst in office; indeed, he never ceased to press these points to the attention of those, who had the power to effect the end he had in view; and he was naturally anxious, that the reform he had in view, should originate with the Executive Power."

[2] J. J. V. was sent for directly by Mr. Huskisson, with whom he had the conference on this subject, and the business of the War Office generally, before alluded to. [See C.]

No. 7. It was truly gratifying to me, that the view I had taken of a principal and expensive department, corresponded with your own observations; and whilst I claim some credit for having, five years ago, remarked, amongst other things, that gross abuse, the *detached* office in Queen-Street, I expect some now, for not stating, on light grounds, my belief, that *other and existing branches of the Army Department are subject to much similar observation, and call for the same investigation of their utility and their expence.*

No. 8. I repeat my statement of the waste of salary in some of the departments, and *the possibility of keeping all the accounts closer settled, with a greatly decreased establishment.* More Esquires are kept in the War Department than are either for the King's service or honor, and the expences of *hiring houses* for them are a *gross extravagance.*

As much is always saved by merely keeping extensive accounts close, and simplifying them, I should venture on being honored with an interview, to suggest something on that subject, the principle

of which has the most decided sanction of men of great mercantile calculations and concerns.

No. 9. *Much* of theground on which I calculated the savings in the "War-office;" and to which I consider those abuses I mentioned to you traceable, is in the existing system; that appeared to me as erroneous in principle, as a funnel, whose broad part had been made larger, because the narrow part emitted too slow; and it seemed to me obvious, that by increasing the power of one, you might reduce the size of the other.

No. 10. Having in a former report hinted at a probable saving, on general principles, in the Forage expence, it is proper for me to state, that I had no such idea as making it by a reduction of the Cavalry force; it struck me, and my own experience is confirmed by every inquiry I have made, that the horses would be kept in better health, and fitter for service, with fewer oats, and a different system of feeding. Those of two regi-

ments I have just seen, are more like cattle intended for slaughter than work.[1]

No. 11. Local inquiry into Military *Expenditure, materially connected with the subject of Crown Lands*, &c.

A situation has lately become vacant, which might very properly take into it these matters, and on the system I have presumed to recommend, would render what was *much* of a *sinecure*, one of the most effective appointments under Government.

No. 12. If this appointment was placed on the effective footing, the facts, which have come within

[1] More than 100,000l. per annum might have been, and may be saved, (and with infinite advantage to the service,) by the adoption of this suggestion; our horses go abroad pampered, and, by increased work, and decreased attention and food, soon loose their powers, and becoming unfit for duty, either die, or are destroyed.

About threepence halfpenny per day, for each horse, might be saved, and the horse fitter for service.

my view, appear to suggest the expediency of, *I would undertake to do more than double the present duties of the situation, at half the present salary of it, and on condition, too, of not receiving that, till it had accrued from the advantages arising from my exertions.*

The vacant appointment which J. V. presumes may be made an infinitely more effective one, is, "Surveyor-General of the Crown Lands, &c." and he supports his opinion and application on the following facts and principles:

That it has come within his view and knowledge, and he asserts the facts positively, that the management of this property is bad, and the value of it not understood by Government; and assuming it as an incontestible position, that property is productive in proportion as it is looked after, he persuades himself it will follow, that immense advantages might accrue to the revenue, by extending the official duties of the appointment to active and local investigation.

That by this mode of ascertaining and improving the value of this property, vast sums lost by Government, which actually arise from a species of it,

would then necessarily come within the knowledge of this officer, which it would be his duty so to report, that they might be taken for the use of Government instead of individuals.

That enough has come within his view, during his unofficial progress, to satisfy him an official continuance of it would enable him to render important service to the revenue; and he sustains his statement of doing double the present duties of the situation, by proposing to devote half his time to active and local investigation, confident the remainder will be sufficient for the official arrangements.

That he only asks half the salary, because he thinks the office might be divided with advantage to the public; and that it would be highly expedient that one or other should be always on that active duty, by which alone such property can be looked after as it ought.

That besides the obvious advantages which attach to this generally-adopted system in managing private property, it will be clear, that much advantage may be expected, by dividing this appointment, from the emulation that will naturally be excited by the

constant estimate that must be made of the services of each.

That the increase of revenue and advantages, which may result, will be obtained without adding to the expence of the establishment as it now stands, or taking from the patronage of it.[1]

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[1] In April, 1810, the Secretary of the Treasury brought a bill into Parliament, to place the business of the Surveyor-General of the Crown Lands, &c. under the joint management of New Commissioners, to be called Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenue. It is clear this measure was not in the contemplation of Government in July, 1809, when J. J. V. communicated on the subject with the then Secretary of the Treasury. Small and cramped as J. J. V's. means have been to pursue inquiry with, he has seen and known enough to affirm, that the encroachments and dilapidations on this property, *are immense ;* and the public principles on which he has always acted, induced him, on Mr. Warton's bringing in this bill, to send him the following note :

" Mr. Vassar has the honor to present his compliments to Mr. Wharton, and having had some important intercourse with the Treasury, on the subject of the Bill now in the Commons, relative to the Crown Lands, and the connected Revenues, feels it his duty to offer some facts to Mr. W's. consideration.

" If Mr. W. should feel himself led by any official minute, or any official, or personal wish, to receive such statements

B. No. 4.

The foregoing Extracts will be perceived to exhibit a small part only of the facts and remarks J. J. V's. researches have enabled him to collect, and to communicate to Government; and those relating chiefly to one department: but they are sufficient, as he should conceive, to shew the necessity of that investigation and reform he has pressed on Ministers, and to call the attention of the Public to the subject.

His reports to the Treasury have pointed in the same way to similar Abuses in the other departments and branches of Military

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as Mr. V. may have to make to him, Mr. V. is in waiting with a desire to submit his facts to him; but he is so circumstanced, that this is the last opportunity he will have of so doing it,"

J. J. V. sent in his card with this note, but was refused an interview. It was asked for with a view to the Public Interest!

Expenditure; and he has also collected much information, that, for want of means to pursue his inquiries, remains in an unshaped state. It will be obvious, that, instead of encouragement, he has received checks, and found impediments, where he looked for assistance, and ought to have had it.

The savings, by the correction of those Abuses he has pointed out, *would already*, as he has calculated, have paid off Seven Millions and a Half of the public debt, and, as he believes, and as now seems to appear, Fifteen Millions.[1]

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[1] There appears a reduction in the Estimates of this Year, 1810.

In the Army Estimates,	......	£. 600,000.
In the Ordnance ditto,	......	1,500,000.
	Total,	£ 2,100,000.

C.

Copy of a Paper transmitted to Mr. Perceval the 12th of January, 1810, containing the Substance of Communications, and Extracts from the Correspondence with the Secretary of the Treasury, on the subjects of the foregoing Reports.

J. J. V. having, on the 1st of July, 1808, transmitted to Mr. Huskisson the letter, of which A. No. 5. is a copy, together with the documents therein referred to, [A. No. 3. 4.] and having applied, at various times, for an answer, on the 20th of August, received a note as follows:— "Mr. Huskisson presents his compliments to Mr. Vassar, will be happy to see him on Tuesday, at twelve o'Clock, at the Treasury, should that day and hour prove convenient to him." J. J. V. consequently attended, but the interview was delayed, owing to Mr. H's. other avocations, till the 31st. when Mr. H. commenced a conversation, by *admitting, in the most distinct terms, the correctness of J. J. V's. observation, "that communications made to Government for the public advantage, and under official pledge, could have no connection with any particular administration;"* and after remarking, "that J. J. V's. communications were not sufficiently particular, desired him to make out a

more full and extended statement." J. J. V. therefore, on the day after (1st. September) transmitted him the Paper, marked B. No. 1. with the documents, marked A. Nos. 1. 2.

Though in constant attendance after this, under various appointments, it was not till the 5th of November, that Mr. H. had leisure to admit J. V. to a second interview.

At this interview, " Mr. Huskisson expressed his entire coincidence in J. J. V's. opinion relative to the Waggon Corps, and observed, there were many other expences in the War Department which he certainly thought objectionable, but that it did not lay with him to correct, instancing Boy Regiments;[1] that Mr. V's. statements were still of too

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[1] It was remarked in J. J. V's. statement to Ministers, in 1809, that Mr. Huskisson's observations and calculation on that subject, would apply much stronger to the practice of keeping Cavalry Regiments non-effective for two or three years, by purchasing horses too young for service; and, on the debates on the Army Estimates, 26th of February, 1810, Mr. Huskisson observed, " that the plan of buying horses at two years old was highly inexpedient, as by the time they were fit for service, they would cost at least 150l.;" and Lord. G. Gower also deprecated that mode of purchasing horses for the Cavalry.

general a nature, but that doubtless there were considerable abuses it was desirable to put a stop to; that Mr. Robert Dundas had mentioned Mr. V. as being a man of observing habits, and that he (Mr. H.) was going to advance him 50l. which Mr. V. was to apply in such way as he thought best for the purposes in view, taking his own road and course of inquiry, and making his report *for the month* to Mr. H.; *that if these reports were important, Mr. V. would be noticed,* but that he must make his inquiries cautiously and privately, the subject being delicate, and not admitting of his being clothed with any official character."

With this advance J. J. V. set off immediately for the Sussex coast, from whence he commenced making that series of reports contained in the papers B 2, and 3; and at the end of *a month* (5th December) waited on Mr. H. again, as he was directed, expressing, by note, his anxiety to account for the application of his time and the money; and also his hope, that the reports he had made, pointed to the advantages to be derived from a continuance of the inquiries.

On the 16th of December, J. J. V. received the following note from Mr. H.—" Mr. Huskisson pre-

sents his compliments to Mr. Vassar, and is sorry that the pressure of business has prevented Mr. H. from seeing Mr. V. since his return. Mr. H. thinks it proper to add, at the same time, that he was anxious to make some inquiry respecting some of the statements with which Mr. V. has favored him before he had any communication with him on the matters stated in his two reports. Mr. H. proceeded to make those inquiries in such a manner as not to commit *the authority from which he received his information.* He is now going out of town for some days, but he expects to know the result by his return, when *he will take an opportunity of seeing Mr. V. on the several points in question.*"— December 16th.

It was on the 16th January, 1809, J. J. V. *had* the third interview; *his whole intervening time having been assiduously devoted to obtain additional facts and information.*

At this interview, " Mr. H. commenced with stating, that the *land* at Fairlight, *contracted for by the barrack-office, had been given up by Government;* and that he himself had induced Mr. Pitt to stop the building there, *from the immense expence it would have occasioned;* and that the bad condition

of the land was understood to be owing to some law-suit. He then proceeded to make some observations on the statements relative to the contract horses, mentioned in J. J. V's reports, on which subject *he desired J. J. V. to get him further information;* and then mentioned that the facts relative to the *dilapidating buildings and materials,* though specifically *stated in the report, and in a way that he could have put his finger on them,* were immediately in the Ordnance Department, with which they (the Treasury) could not interfere." On J. J. V's mentioning that his progress had been much impeded for want of money, Mr. H. said, "he would have had more *if he had asked for it;* and he then advanced J. J.V. 20*l. observing, that he did that without authority,* in consideration of Mr. V's circumstances; *that he did not know how far he might be enabled to continue such issues; and that he thought it would be better for J. J. V. to have some permanent situation.*" He then had the condescension to say, "there could exist no question as to J. J. V's attention and abilities, and that what he had in idea was not any situation, which official regulations would make his age a bar to, but a thing by itself; something anomalous arising out of the extraordinary times they lived in." He concluded by directing *J. J. V. to continue his communications to him;* and with saying, he would

himself make farther inquiries into the matters contained in the reports he had already received.

The *farther reports made by Mr. V. in consequence* are also contained amongst those in the papers B 2 and 3, and were *continued up to the* 11*th of March*, when J. J. V. had his fourth audience of Mr. H.

At this interview Mr. H. first entered on the subject of the War Office, to which J. J. V's last communications had reference; and having heard from Mr. V. some statements relating to that Department, which he took down, he proceeded to make some remarks, which J. J. V. certainly[1] then thought had in part been grounded on his, (Mr. H's) own observations, the more so, as Mr. H. expressed his belief (in which J. J. V. perfectly coincided), that if he had the management of that establishment, he could make many highly necessary and importantly beneficial alterations;[2] and on J. J. V's reverting strongly

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[1] See forwrad, Mr. H's letter of the 10th of May.

[2] In addition to this strong testimony in favor of the accuracy and the importance of J. J. V's communications, it seems to appear, by some public statement of events that took place about this time, that sentiments of similar import had been avowed, and acted on, by other and high authority.

to the waste, neglect, and extravagance of the Ordnance Department, Mr. H. admitted the expediency of a controling power being vested in the Treasury, (as had been suggested in J. J. V's reports), in terms of such decisive import,[1] as must inevitably, if submitted to parliament, in the present state of things, lead to the most serious discussions, and to the establishing a salutary check on that expenditure."

Mr. H. then advanced Mr. V. 50l more, stating his apprehension, that *he might not have authority to continue such issues;* but that his endeavours should not be wanting to find him more permanent employment; *and he concluded, not only with desiring J. J. V. would continue to communicate to him whatever facts and information he could collect;* but with saying *he should consider it his duty to do so.*"

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[1] Amongst other forcible observations, Mr. H. said, "he certainly thought there should be one controling power somewhere, there indeed (at the Treasury). But there was a jealousy between the two Departments, and the Master-General being always a man of high rank and consequence, and a cabinet minister, there were difficulties—under a powerful minister, such a man as Mr. Pitt indeed."

He went no farther—there was no occasion;—he had uttered volumes.

J. J. V. consequently did continue making such communications, and applied himself diligently in pursuit of his inquiries, till, by the expences of travelling, and of attendancies on Mr. H. at the Treasury, he had, at the end of two months, again unavoidably, and greatly exceeded his means, and incurred a heavy debt; and he then transmitted to Mr. H. with a report of some additional facts that had come under his observation, a statement of his situation, and an application for a farther advance.

On the 10th of May J. J. V. received a letter from Mr. H. in which, after acknowledging the receipt of Mr. V's letter, and the inclosures, and kindly expressing his regret at the pressure of Mr. V's personal circumstances, he proceeds to repeat what had passed at their last interview on the subject of further procuring advance, and to say that "*that he shall be glad to see him placed in some situation in which his exertions and talents might be rendered of advantage to the public; but, though his endeavours should not be wanting, he could not hold out the assurance that it would be in his individual power to accomplish it.*

He concluded his letter with saying that "*he had made such use of J. J. V's communications as his*

own sense of public duty suggested to him; and that J. J. V. appeared to have misunderstood some things that fell from him in their conversation, particularly in what related to the War Office, on which *any observations he might have made, were not,* as Mr. V. supposed, *grounded on his own view and knowledge* of the mode of carrying on business there, *but were rather drawn from him as inferences from the circumstances Mr. V. had stated to him* at the time."[1]

Though this application for pecuniary advance then failed; on J. J. V's earnestly requesting Mr. H's reconsideration of it, a Mr. Hoblyn, (Mr. Huskisson's private secretary), brought him on the 22d another 50l. certainly stating at the same time, that Mr. Huskisson could not hold out to Mr. V. any expectation of any additional pecuniary compensation; but as *Mr. Hoblyn then asked Mr. V. to continue his communications, and said, that he would always* find

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[1] J. J. V. can have no objection to let that fact rest in this statement, since, at the very moment he was reading it, the Secretary at War, and the Paymaster-General, were avowing in their places in the House, that the system was radically bad, and thereby establishing the accuracy of J. J. V's observations, and the inferences Mr. Huskisson had drawn from them.

him at *his* desk to receive them,[1] J. J. V. could only suppose, and he did suppose, he was to be remunerated in some way or other.

This made *the sum Mr. V. has received*, 170*l.*

Under the very natural impression that a distressed man would not be asked to continue his public exertions at his own expence, and to his own inquiry, J. J. V. was induced to apply what was left of this 50l. after paying the debts he had incurred in the course of his former inquiries, in a continuance of these inquiries; and agreeably to *Mr. Hoblyn's suggestion*, soon after (the 8th of June) delivered to him, at his seat in the Treasury, a report, containing the facts and the information he had collected, which report, after communicating with Mr. Huskisson, was received on the stipulated condition, that Mr. V. should be distinctly informed of the opinion entertained of its importance.

J. J. V. waited several days for this promised communication, but not obtaining it, and having had in his view some facts of apparently high importance, his public duty, and what seemed to him

[1] See forward, June 8th.

his own interest too, induced him to solicit from a friend the means of pursuing his investigation of them; and for that purpose he set off for the coast of Kent, from whence (eleventh July) he transmitted to Mr. Huskisson these Reports in the Papers [B] which will be seen to connect with this part of his progress; and he wrote to him at the same time for a further pecuniary supply, "in aid of the expences he had incurred with a view to the public advantage, and for continuing his inquiries".

On the 15th of July, Mr. V. received a letter from Mr. Hoblyn, stating that "he was desired by *Mr. Huskisson, to acknowledge the receipt of his letter of the 11th, and the inclosed Reports, and to thank him for them;* that Mr. Huskisson could not hold out to Mr. V. the smallest expectation of any additional pecuniary compensation, or remuneration, for any farther communications he might make to him; but that *in the event of his receiving such communications, he would, as far as lie in his power, and as the case might require, make such use of them as the duty of his situation and the public interest might appear to require.*

Here ended J. J. V's expectation of farther pecuniary compensation from Mr. Huskisson, *though*

at a subsequent conversation with Mr. Hoblyn, on the subject of the vacant appointment,[*] *Mr. Hoblyn continued to express a disposition to receive farther reports from him.*

J. J. V. however, *then* distinctly declined making any more.

It will appear by the dates, that J. J. V's attendance commenced on the 1st of September, 1808; that the the first advance to him was on the 5th of November following; and the last on the 22nd of May, 1809; that his reports were made and received up to the 15th of July 1809; till which day he considered himself making those reports with the certainty of compensation, if they were considered of *importance*, which *they were.*

Let *any* honorable man look at the facts, and say, *if on referring to the dates, any calculation can be made, that will not prove that J. J. V. has not been fully remunerated:* The extreme sum the dates cover is infinitely less proportionate to J. J. V's services, than to the injury he has sustained by those services.

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* See forward.

J. J. V. had then only to ascertain, if the expectations of employment, that were held out to him, were likely to be realized; and an opportunity having offered for doing this, he wrote to Mr. Huskisson on the subject, observing, "that it might answer all his views to state, that if *the appointment, to which he alluded in his last reports, and which was now vacant, was placed on the effective footing he had suggested, he would undertake more than double the present duties of it at half the present salary, on condition too, of not receiving that till it had accrued from the advantages arising from his official exertions.*

Mr. Hoblyn was again the medium of communicating on this business; and on his desiring J. J. V. to mention the situation, *J. J. V. gave him the paper which concludes the reports, which paper he directly* submitted to Mr. Huskisson; and, on returning, stated to J. J. V. that "*the situation was a political one; that from the consequence of several parties*, who had applied for it, Mr. V's application was not likely to be attended to, and that he had better withdraw it; that though the business had been neglected in consequence of the infirmities of the gentleman, who had held the appointment, there was no doubt the Duke of Portland would give it

to some one, who would do the duties of it actively; and that Mr. V's name was on the list for some appointment, though nothing like a definite appointment, or any definite time for his obtaining it, could be promised him."

J. J. V. received this communication with the sentiments it merited [1] and having desired that his name might be erased from the list in which it was placed, he withdrew.

His feelings induced him to repeat this by letter, and in a more official way, which he immediately did, as follows:

"SIR,

"It has seemed to me, on consideration, that my communications with the Treasury should close in a more decisive and official way than the conversation that passed between us yesterday.

[1] Those who know what being on the list is, will perfectly well understand what these sentiments were; those, who do not, will readily comprehend them, on being told, that when J. J. V. observed that he had been already kept more than four years in such sort of expectation, he was answered, and by one of the senior clerks too, "that that was nothing; that there were persons in the same situation, who had been so ever since he came into office."

"I therefore renew through you, officially, my request, that my name may be struck out of the list of applicants for employment; and your informing me in the same way, that it is so, will oblige me; as it will prevent the possibility of my mind wandering to such expectations; but on withdrawing my application for employment, it is proper that all the ground on which I have made it should remain apparent, for which purpose alone I inclose the papers I submitted to you yesterday, and having then been told that the situation alluded to is a *political one*, it becomes me to say, what is well known to several Members of the present Administration, that if justice had been done me, when, by an ill placed confidence in a Treasury recommendation, my interests were placed in the hands of the gentleman, who lately held the appointment,[1] my political pretensions would not have been inferior to his."

"To Mr. Hoblyn."

In this letter J. J. V. also re-stated his claim to additional pecuniary compensation; and he inclosed a copy of it to Mr.

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[1] On the Malmsbury Committee Mr. Fordyce was Mr. V's nominee.

Huskisson; and the intercourse closed with the following observations from J. J. V. and the annexed note from Mr. Huskisson in reply.

"Mr. V. intreats Mr. Huskisson will do justice to his motives for observing, that whilst the application made by him for employment will prove that he only sought it with a view to the public advantage, and to correct *some of those abuses he has pointed out*; it remains for Mr. Huskisson's consideration, whether the offer made by him to do more than double the present duty of the appointment he applied for, at half the present salary, was well rejected, on the ground of the situation being a political one, the more so, as the political sinecure of Commissioner might (if deemed expedient) be continued, and the expence of it infinitely more than covered by the plan J. J. V. proposed, for rendering the surveyor an effective office."

"Mr. Huskisson's compliments to Mr. Vassar, and does not feel himself called on by his letter of this date to make any addition to his former communications to Mr. Vassar."

"*Treasury Chambers*, *Aug.* 8, 1809."

J. J. V. refrains from offering much observation on the foregoing statements, on the face of which, however, it is proper for him to remark, there clearly appears, that political interest has outweighed the public interest; and that a distressed man was led to continue his exertions for the public advantage, on his own means, and to his own inconvenience; and is left considerably injured in his private circumstances by his zeal in making communications to Government, which he was told "had been, and would be used for the public benefit."

D. No. 1.

Copies from, and Substance of a Correspondence with the Right Honorable Spencer Perceval, relative to the paper marked (c).

To the Right Honorable Spencer Perceval.

Jan. 12*th*, 1810.

Sir,

"The accompanying paper [c] can only be entitled to your notice, by the force of truth, and the expediency of public justice.

" I found on them, and the documents to which they refer, a claim on that justice, to the amount of 330l. for the time, the services, and the attendancies stated.

" The faith of Government was pledged to me, in 1804, by the then Pay-master-General, and it has not been kept with me.

" It will appear, that I also received assurances from the Secretary of the Treasury in November 1808, under which I have exerted myself with zeal and earnestness for the public good; and that I am left indebted and involved by them, notwithstanding the official admissions made to me of the accuracy and the importance of my communications.

" *The saving my reports to Government pointed at are of no slight national import; and the further observations it has come in my way to make, might certainly, under existing circumstances, be worth some consideration.*

" *The official admissions made to me are very serious and momentous evidence in my favor.*

"If continued zeal, for years, for the public benefit, and a constantly manifested disposition to possess Government of those facts that others have collected with very different views, connecting with the admissions made to me of the accuracy of my conduct and my suggestions, furnish no grounds for my obtaining relief from the difficulties they have occasioned me, the appeal on which I rest my application to you, will, I am persuaded, be considered irresistible. *I appeal to you, as an injured man, claiming, from the justice of Government, to be relieved from the private difficulties, into which my public services have involved me.*

"I have the honor to be,

"&c. &c."

No. 2.

Note on the 15th to Mr. Perceval, entreating his decision.

No. 3.

NOTE from MR. PERCEVAL.

"Mr. Perceval begs leave to acquaint Mr. Vassar, in reply to his letter of this morning, that *being himself entirely unacquainted with the*

circumstances stated in Mr. Vassar's former communication to him, and consequently unable to answer his application without making some inquiry concerning them, it is not in Mr. Perceval's power to comply with Mr. Vassar's request, to decide upon his claims for *remuneration immediately.*

" *Downing-Street,* 15*th Jan.* 1810."

The application renewed, by J. J. V. to Mr. P. in two subsequent letters, stating, " that EVEN IF HIS (Mr. V's.) CLAIMS, &c. WERE REJECTED, HIS FARTHER INFORMATION MIGHT BE FOUND USEFUL; AND THAT THIS REMARK WAS OFFERED, BECAUSE FROM THE NOTE MR. P. HONORED MR. V. WITH, IT APPEARED MR. P. WAS ENTIRELY UNACQUAINTED WITH SOME FACTS MR. V. DISTINCTLY UNDERSTOOD HE HAD BEEN CONSULTED ON, AND MIGHT THEREFORE, PERHAPS, BE EQUALLY SO WITH OTHERS, THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE SOME PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

No. 4.

COPY of a Letter from MR. PERCEVAL.

" SIR,

" On the receipt of your letter, dated the 12th of this month, stating your claim upon the

public to be remunerated to the extent of 330l. for the time, the services, and the attendances, therein referred to, and detailed in another paper which accompanied it, I thought it my duty to make inquiry upon the subject, not *being enabled, by any knowledge of the facts, to judge myself, of the accuracy of your statement, or the justice of your claims.*

" The result of this inquiry prevents me from giving any encouragement to your application.

" From your correspondence with Mr. Huskisson, it appears, that you were very distinctly warned by him, in a letter written to you by his desire *on the 15th of July,*[1] not to expect any further pecuniary assistance from him, for any trouble you might continue to give yourself. You can have no claim, therefore, as it appears to me, upon the ground of any engagement between you and him; and upon

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[1] It will be seen that this 330l. claimed and applied for by J. J. V. was for expences and attendances PREVIOUS *to the 15th of July*, 1809, namely, between the 1st of September, 1808, and that day. It is obvious, therefore, from Mr. Perceval's own statement, that his decision on this claim was formed on imperfect investigation, and an error in point of date.

any other ground, I cannot perceive that you have rendered any public service, which would justify me in directing the application of any public money, towards the discharge of the expences which you state yourself to have incurred, or the relief of the difficulties in which you appear to be involved."

" *Downing-Street, 25th Jan.* 1810."

No. 5.

COPY of a Letter to MR. PERCEVAL.

" Sir,

" I am this evening honored by your letter deciding against the claims I submitted to you for remuneration, for my time, expences, reports made to the Treasury, and attendances there, BETWEEN THE 1st SEPTEMBER, 1808, and the 15th JULY, 1809.

" I have likewise to acknowledge the return, as stated, of the documents transmitted to you in my letter of the 12th, and it remains for me now, only to request the return also, of the papers belonging to me, [marked C] contained in my first letter, it becoming a duty I owe to the public and to myself to submit my facts and my claim to parliament."

"The multiplied and irresistible proofs I possess, of my zeal *for the service and the credit of Government*, and my respect for official characters, will cover me from any imputation of observing on any principles but those of regret, that THE STATEMENT IN THE LETTERS YOU HAVE HONORED ME WITH, OF YOUR BEING ENTIRELY UNACQUAINTED, PREVIOUS TO THE 12TH INSTANT, WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES I SUBMITTED TO YOU ON THAT DAY, IS COMPLETELY AT VARIANCE WITH THE FORMER STATEMENTS OF MR. HUSKISSON; *and though I do not ask for any revision of your decision, I am induced to suggest for your consideration, if it could be quite fairly made on any investigation of the abstract facts in a paper, which referred to other communications, that pointed at Waste and Abuses in the Public Expenditure to the amount of some millions.*"

D. No. 2.

Extracts from Mr. Huskisson's Letters, and from a Speech of Mr. Perceval's.

It is material to bring into view here the following Extracts from Mr. Huskisson's Letter's to J. J. Vassar; and a part of Mr. Perceval's Speech in the House of Commons, on the 1st of March, 1810.

No. 1.—" Mr. Huskisson presents his compliments to Mr. Vassar, and is sorry that the pressure of business has prevented Mr. H. from seeing Mr. V. since his return. Mr. H. thinks it proper to add, at the same time, that he was anxious to make some inquiry, respecting some of the statements with which Mr. V. has favored him, before he had any communication with him on the matters stated in his two reports. *Mr. H. has proceeded to make these inquiries in such a manner as not to commit the authority from which he received his information.*

He is now going out of Town for some days, but he expects to know the result by his return, when *he will take an opportunity of seeing Mr. V. on the several points in question.*"

"*Treasury Chambers*, 16*th Dec.* 1808."

No. 2.—"I HAVE MADE *such use of your communications as my own sense of* PUBLIC DUTY *suggested to me.*"

"10*th May*, 1809."

No. 3.—In a Letter from Mr. Hoblyn, (Mr. (Huskisson's private secretary,) he states, "that Mr. Huskisson had received, and *thanked* J. J. V. for his letter and communications of the 11th inst. and, *that he would, in the event of his receiving farther communications, as far as lay in his power, and as the case might require, make such use of them, as the duty of his situation, and the public interest, might appear to require.*

"15*th July*, 1809."

Mr. Perceval, (1st March, 1810,) said, "the Army Estimates presented a reduction of 600,000l. He acknowledged himself indebted to Mr. Huskisson for many valuable suggestions previous to his going out of office, of which he had availed himself!!!!"

E.

COPIES of a Correspondence with the Right Hon. R. DUNDAS, and W. HUSKISSON, Esq. relative to the presenting of a Petition to the House of Commons, and remarks.

No. 1.

COPY of a LETTER to the Right Hon. R. DUNDAS.

"SIR,

"It is open, I believe, to every individual to petition the House of Commons in proper and respectful terms, for the redress of any grievance he may have to complain of; and I have always understood it is considered a duty by any member that is applied to, to present such petition.

" It has been deemed essential to the interests of the country, as well as to my own, by many persons of considerable abilities and consequence, I have consulted on the subject, that I should immediately present to the House the one sent (herewith) for your perusal; and as you know, that many, I may say most, perhaps all the allegations in it are true, I should be wanting in the respect I have ever felt for you, if I did not, in the first instance, apply to you to do it.

" Though recollecting, with indelible feelings, the instances you have formerly condescended to give of your friendly regards to me, my present request is not grounded on them; but, from the opportunities I have had of knowing you, and the high and respectful opinion that is the result of that knowledge, I am led to believe, you will present my petition, and support it, as far as it is founded on truth and justice.

" I have the honor to be, &c.

" *24th May*, 1810."

" P. S. It is my wish, and indeed it is important to me, that the petition should not be presented till the beginning of next week, Tuesday or Wednes-

day; but if from any motive I may not be aware of, you should decline presenting it, I have to request you will have the goodness to return it to me immediately. I have sent a copy to Mr. Huskisson, &c."

No. 2.

Copy of a Letter from the Right Hon. R. Dundas to J. J. V. 25th May, 1810.

Hertford Street, 25th May, 1810.

" Sir,

" On my return home late last night, I found your letter, with the petition to the House of Commons. As there is nothing, either in the stile of the petition, or in the matter of it, which would render it improper to be submitted to the House, I certainly cannot, on that account, object to presenting it. I think it fair, however, to state, that I should not feel myself at liberty to support it, or to take any further step concerning it; and I should, therefore, recommend your entrusting it to some other person, who would lend his assistance in the attainment of the object. I am not

certain, also, whether in point of form, a petition, praying for public aid, or remuneration, though soliciting "redress," also in general terms, will not require the King's consent to be signified, before the House will receive it, and I have no reason to suppose, that any such consent will be signified.

"I observe, that an allusion is made in the petition to an expression used in 1804, by a person, 'now one of His Majesty's Cabinet Ministers.' If I am the person alluded to, I can only state, that I have no recollection whatever of any such circumstance, nor is that want of recollection very surprising at this distance of time. On the other hand, the same cause will prevent my affirming, that your memory may not be accurate in that particular.

"I return herewith the petition, and I remain,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"R. DUNDAS.

"J. J. Vassar, Esq."

No. 3.

COPY of a LETTER to WILLIAM HUSKISSON, Esq.

"SIR,

"It having become a duty I owe to the country and to myself to present a petition to Parliament on the subject of my communications with Government, and the situation in which my public exertions and services have placed me, I think I should not be acting with that openness of character which I trust I have, and shall always have a claim to, if I did not apprize you of my intention, and send you a copy.

"On doing this you will permit me to observe, that it was always the impression on my mind that you was extremely anxious to carry into effect every suggestion of mine that pointed to the public benefit; and that I was under considerable obligations to you for the interest you took in the business, as it personally concerned myself. This impression I still retain, but *I cannot avoid remarking, that I am not able to reconcile it exactly with the statement, in a note I had the honor to receive from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the* 15*th of January last.*

"I have, from a long, steady, and indelible respect for Mr. Dundas, applied to him (in the first instance) to present my petition; and should he, from any motive I may not be aware of, decline doing it, I should think it a mark of respect due to you, and should so mean it, to make the request to you, satisfying myself there can, at any rate, be no doubt but you will support it as far as it is founded on truth and justice.

"I assure myself you will meet the candour with which I have written to you, with the same open declarations of your disposition and intentions.

"I have the honor to be,

"Sir,

"Your's, &c.

"J. J. V."

"*May 24th*, 1810."

No. 4.

Copy of a Letter to W. Huskisson, Esq.

Sir,

"I received yesterday evening a letter from Mr. Dundas, stating that as there was nothing either in the stile of the petition, or the matter of it, which

would render it improper to be submitted to the House, he certainly could not, on that account, object to presenting it; but that he thought it fair to state that he should not feel himself at liberty to support it, or to take any farther step concerning it; and should therefore recommend my entrusting it to some other person who would lend his assistance in the attainment of the object.

"Agreeably to to the intimation in my letter of the 24th instant, and as a proper mark of attention and respect; I now apply to you to present it; requesting the favor to be informed forthwith if it will be agreeable to you to do it, and to what extent I may hope for your support.

"I have the honor to be,

"Sir,

"Your's, &c. &c.

"*May 26th*, 1810."

"P.S. I think it proper to mention, that very strong opinions have been given in favor of my application by several parties, it has been submitted to, and that my friends are actively interesting themselves in support of it."

No. 5.

Copy of a Letter from W. Huskisson, Esq. to J. J. V.

Upper Wimpole Street, May 26th, 1810.

"Sir,

"I have to acknowledge your letter, inclosing a printed copy of your intended petition to the House of Commons, and also your letter of this morning just arrived. With respect to the statements in the petition which relate to your transactions with the Treasury when I held an official situation under that Board, and your intercourse with me, it will be necessary for me when your petition shall be presented to differ from your representation in some points, and to explain others. Under these circumstances, you must be the best judge whether I am a fit channel for bringing your petition before the House, but if you should wish to devolve that task upon me, I shall feel it to be my public duty, as a member of the House, not to decline it. Considering myself, however, as one of the parties, whose conduct it is the object of your petition to bring before the House, you cannot expect that I should do more, on such an occasion, than offer such vindication of that conduct as may appear to

me to be necessary, leaving to the House to dispose of the case, as in their wisdom they may think proper.

"I remain, Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"W. HUSKISSON."

"P. S. I think it necessary to add, that upon consultation with the speaker yesterday, I find that your petition cannot be received unless the consent of the Crown shall be given through the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"J. J. Vassar, Esq."

No. 6.

Copy of a Letter to W. Huskisson, Esq.

"Sir,

"I feel myself extremely obliged by your letter of yesterday, and beg leave to express both my satisfaction and my thanks that you will present my petition to the House, which I therefore leave with you, requesting you will have the good-

ness to do it on Thursday, if that day is convenient to you.

"As there can be no difference on documentary facts, and none that I have the least anxiety about on the other, the substance of the conversations having always been taken down by me at the time, and nearly, I believe, in the very words of them, I shall be perfectly satisfied with the explanations you purpose to give, and which, I am sure, will be fairly given; and as the latter part of your letter makes it necessary for me to observe that, though you are certainly one of the parties it is the object of the petition to bring before the House, that I am not aware of having, in my statement of the facts contained in it, said any thing that can be considered as charging you with any conduct that requires vindication, you will permit me to *repeat* that it was *always* an impression on my mind that you was anxious to adopt every suggestion of mine that pointed to the public advantage, and was disposed to serve me; but that unfortunately for the country, as well as myself, the power did not rest with you."

"As whatever may be the nature of the allegations of my petition, the prayer of it being only 'for protection and redress (under an alledged grievance)

in any, and such way, as might be most consonant to the forms and disposition of the House,' I am induced to hope there neither can, nor will be any objection to going into the merits of it; and, as the observations you purpose making on presenting it will open the case to the House, I shall be content to leave it to be disposed of, as in their wisdom they may think proper.

"I have to beg you will have the goodness to inform me, as soon as possible, if Thursday will be convenient to you, as I have reason to hope, a considerable number of members, who have been impressed with the hardship of my case, and the justice of my claims, purpose to attend."

"I am, Sir,

"&c. &c."

"*May 27th*, 1810."

No. 7.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Huskisson, to J. J. V.

"*Upper Wimpole Street, 28th May.*

"Sir,

"I shall certainly be ready to present your petition on Thursday, provided I shall receive from you an assurance that His Majesty's consent will be given on that day by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Without this assurance it will be impossible for me to stir in the business, for after having shown your petition to the Speaker, (which I did on Friday,) and received his positive opinion, that it could not be *brought* up without the King's consent being previously given, I should be wanting in respect, both to the Speaker and the House, if I were to intrude myself upon their notice, without having satisfied myself that the petition could be received.

"I remain, Sir,

"Your obedient humble servant,

"W. HUSKISSON."

No. 8.

Copy of a Letter from J. J. V. to W. Huskisson, Esq.
May 20, 1810.

" Sir,

" Not being able to comprehend, in the least, how to reconcile the letter I have just had the honor of receiving from you, with the one I was favored with on Saturday, which was written long subsequently to your conversation with the Speaker, and in which it is specifically stated, that, 'if I wished to devolve the task of presenting my petition to you, you should feel it your public duty, as a member of the House of Commons, to do it, and to explain some points, &c.' I can only state, that in consequence of that letter, and in the words of it, I have informed many members, and many friends, (who are fully satisfied of the justice of my claims, and are interesting themselves in the business,) of the manner and the terms in which you consented to do it.

" You will permit me to observe, that as it is possible the consent you allude to, might, and

may be given after the petition has been presented and read, previous to which the House cannot be in such possession of the matter of it, as to reject it; I should hope it will be quite time enough for you to decline your engagement, if it should then be stated to be necessary, and is refused.

" Entreating you to consider what is due, (under all the circumstances of the case,) to the Public, to yourself, and to me, I have the honor to be,

" Sir,

" J. J. VASSAR."

" *28th May*, 1810.

" W. Huskisson, Esq."

P. S. If you should persist in declining to present it, I have to request you will have the goodness to return it to me instantly.

No 9.

Copy of a Letter from W. Huskisson, Esq. to J. J. V.

" *Upper Wimpole Street*, *29th May*, 1810.

" Sir,

" As I conclude that I am to infer from your letter, received this morning, that it is your wish that an attempt should be made to present your petition, without the consent of the Crown being given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; it only remains for me to return it to you, as I cannot lend myself to such an attempt. I must at the same time remind you, that in the postscript to my letter of the 26th, to which you refer, I distinctly told you, that, in the judgment of the Speaker, 'your petition could not be received, unless the consent of the Crown should be given through the Chancellor of the Exchequer.' I have only further to observe, that you are misinformed in supposing that any petition, the object of which is to obtain public aid, or pecuniary remuneration, can even be *brought up to the table, much less read*, without the previous consent of the Crown. When a member rises in his place, and states, that he has a petition to present, the Speaker immediately inquires what is the object and prayer

of it; if it comes within the description I have stated, (as in the opinion of the Speaker your's distinctly does,) he immediately asks, whether His Majesty has consented to its being *brought up;* and if the Chancellor of the Exchequer is not prepared to give that consent, the member cannot proceed one step further. I may add, that it is a usual courtesy for members, having petitions to present, to apprise the Speaker before hand of their contents; that having so done in the present instance, and having been told by him, that your petition could not be *brought* up without the consent of the Crown, you will not, I am sure, expect, after this explanation, that I can be so regardless of my own character, and of what is due to the House, and to the Speaker, as to embark in an attempt wilfully to deceive the latter, and, by a surprise upon him, to entrap the House into a breach of its standing orders upon this subject.

"I remain, Sir,

"Your obedient humble servant,

"W. HUSKISSON."

It is imposed on J. J. V. by Mr. Huskisson's letter of the 29th, to observe, that the conclusion, and the inference it commences with, do not bear those features of candour, that should mark every act of every public man ; and on doing this, it is proper for him to state, that it will appear, by his letter to Mr. H. dated the 27th, that J. J. V's. reason for not applying for the consent alluded to, was, that he did not consider it necessary, as, whatever might be the nature of the allegations in his petition, *the prayer of it was only " for protection and redress, in any and such way as might be most consonant to the forms and the disposition of the Honorable House."*

From this fact alone J. J. V. trusts it would appear, that there was no ground on which Mr. Huskisson could justify a supposition, that J. J. V. had any disposition to " attempt to deceive the Speaker, or to entrap the House into a breach of its standing orders ;" and, it is proper for J. J. V.

to add, that a Cabinet Minister, into whose hands it had been put, having given so *decided* an opinion as to the propriety of submitting the petition to the House, and spoken *doubtfully* as to the necessity of the consent of the Crown, *it was possible* such consent might be given, (if necessary,) after the petition had been presented, and the nature of it *duly* explained.

If J. J. V. had meant "to entrap the House, or deceive the Speaker," he certainly would not have sent a copy of his petition to a member of the administration, or given it the publicity he did, previous to its being presented. The petition itself, indeed, will prove his respectful disposition towards the House and Ministers; and he will hardly be censured for his unwillingness to suppose any attempt would be made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (or would succeed) to deprive him of the advantages he might derive, and the country also, from submitting those farther facts and statements he had to communicate.

F.

Copies from a Correspondence with Mr. R. Dundas and Mr. Perceval, relative to the consent of the Crown.

No. 1.

Copy of a Letter from J. J. V. to the Right Honorable R. Dundas.

"Sir,

"I feel infinitely obliged, by the letter you did me the honor to write to me on 25th, which bears those marks of candour and kindness, that have led me from my earliest knowledge of you, to think of you with respect and affection.

"As you spoke *positively* as to 'there being nothing either in the stile or the matter of my petition, that would render it improper to be submitted to the House,' and somewhat *doubtfully* as to the necessity of the consent of the Crown; and as 'the prayer of it is not for public aid or remuneration,' I am inclined to hope there neither will, nor can be, any objection to going into the merits of it, and on this belief, and your intimation on the subject I did not make any application to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"It is not yet confirmed to me that such consent will be necessary, but whether it be or not, your knowledge of me, and the statements in my petition, will shield me from any imputation or suspicion of intending to fail in any respect or attention to his Majesty's ministers.

"I purposed, and intend to transmit Mr. Perceval a copy, marked as the one now inclosed to you is, with a documentary paper connected with it, now also inclosed, and which you have not before seen; and as every person, who has been made acquainted with my facts and my case, is impressed with the strength and justice of my claims, I do flatter myself that Government may, on again considering them, be of the same opinion; and that, at any rate, I shall not be deprived of any advantages I might derive, (*and the public also*), from those further facts and statements I may have to offer, and which have been kept back by me from a laudable, *admitted, and commended disposition*, to avoid the possibility of increasing the inflammation in the public mind.

"I shall feel myself under the greatest obligation, if you will communicate the substance of this letter to Mr. Perceval this evening, as fatigue and illness will

probably prevent my transmitting him the papers, and of showing my disposition to pay him all due respect before to-morrow.

"I have the honor to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"J. J. V."

"*May* 30*th*, 1810."

To the Right Hon. R. Dundas.

No. 2.

Copy of a Letter from J. J. V. to the Right Honorable S. Perceval.

"Sir,

"Having by the advice of some friends, men of known and considerable talents and estimation, prepared a petition to be presented to the House of Commons, praying for protection and redress in any and such way as may be most consonant to its forms and disposition, I am given to understand it is proper for me to apply *personally* to you for the consent of the Crown that it may be received.

"It was only yesterday *confirmed* to me that such consent would be necessary; and I trust the petition will, in itself, cover me from any imputation or suspicion of having delayed my application from any disposition or intention to fail in showing the respect and attention due to you.

"I have had the *very great satisfaction* to learn, from the highest authorities, that 'there is nothing, either in the style or matter of my petition, that would render it improper to be submitted to the House;' and that, 'in itself it is perfectly proper and unexceptionable;' and I have the comfort also to feel, that every person who has seen it is impressed with the strength and justice of my claims.

"I feel it proper, and I presume to transmit you a copy of the petition, and a documentary paper, which has reference to many of the allegations; and you will permit me to express my earnest hope, that when all the circumstances of the case are considered, the consent to its being received by the House will not be withheld, whatever opposition may be afterwards made to it, and that I shall not be deprived of the advantages I might expect or derive from bringing forward, (if necessary) such

other facts and statements as I may have to offer in support of it.

"As I learn the application is required to be made personally, I will attend again in the course of the morning, and solicit the honor of an interview.

"I have the honor to be,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient humble servant,

"J. J. V."

"*June* 1*st*, 1810."

To the Right Hon. S. PERCEVAL.

No. 3.

"Mr. Vassar has the honor to attend on Mr. Perceval, and to solicit an interview for the purpose of applying for the consent of the Crown for the House of Commons to receive a petition, a copy of which he took the liberty to transmit to him, with a documentary paper, sustaining many of the allegations.

"*Friday Morning, June* 1*st*, 1810."

No. 4.

"*Downing Street, June* 2, 1810.

"SIR,

"I am desired by Mr. Perceval, in reply to your application for a personal interview with him, for the purpose of soliciting the consent of the Crown to the petition, which you have sent to Mr. Perceval, to state to you, that you have been misinformed as to the necessity of having a personal interview with Mr. Perceval for such an object; and that on the present occasion it would be only giving you unnecessary trouble, as Mr. Perceval, after having read your papers, does not feel himself justified in giving the sanction of the Crown to the petition, which you propose to submit to Parliament.

"I am,

"Sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"THOMAS BROOKSBANK."

To J. J. VASSAR, Esq.

G.

The following Petition was presented to the House on Saturday the 9th of June, 1810, by Mr. Lockhart, the member for Oxford, who had the kindness to offer his services on the occasion, when, on an objection taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, after the Speaker had directed it to be brought up, the reading of it was negatived. *There were only eleven members at that time in the House.*

Unfortunately, and much to J. J. V's. disappointment, the Honorable Member, who at last presented it, had been prevented by some circumstances or other from doing it on a former day, when there was a much fuller attendance.

To the Honorable the Commons of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

THE PETITION

OF

JAMES JOHN VASSAR, Esq.

HUMBLY SHOWETH,

"That your Petitioner has for some years been in the habits of communicating with his Majesty's ministers on the subjects of the wastes and abuses in the Military Establishments and Expenditures.

"That in February, 1804, your Petitioner wrote to the then Paymaster-General, stating his belief, that he could point out to Government some important savings that might be made in the various military departments, and desiring, if his suggestions were acquiesced in, a per centage on the sums saved; and that he was immediately honoured with an answer in writing, in which it was specifically declared, 'That the Paymaster-General would not fail to pay attention to any communications your petitioner might think proper to make, and that he

could have no difficulty in promising adequate compensation, if they were adopted.'

"That, in consequence, your Petititioner did immediately communicate to the Paymaster-General a detailed statement of his observations relative to a branch of the Commissariat Department, namely, 'the Bread Waggons;' and that your Petitioner believes and understands the whole of that establishment, as far as his detailed statement pointed at, was soon after done away.

"That your Petitioner then stated to the Paymaster-General, that he considered and offered this detailed saving as a very small part indeed of what, according to his ideas and observations, might be saved by a proper investigation of the expenditure of that Department; and he next proceeded to state some facts concerning 'The Barrack Department,' which induced him to believe an immediate and general inquiry into the expenditure of that department also was a most necessary, and would be a most salutary, measure.

"That your Petitioner then (viz. 1804) further suggested an enquiry into 'The Ordnance Department,' &c. as connected with his plan, and made

essential by his observations; and concluded with remarking, that he sincerely believed, that without injury to the service, sufficient savings might be made to render it unnecessary to have recourse to any additional taxes, for the purpose of paying the interest of any fresh loan.

"That your Petitioner received a letter from the Paymaster-General in answer, in which he was pleased to say, 'That he had looked over his communications, and thought some savings might be made in the Commissariat Department.'

"That your Petitioner again wrote to 'the Paymaster-General,' pressing on his notice the immense advantages that might arise from local investigation of the existing abuses, and requested assistance from Government to continue his researches through the Eastern district, observing, if the detailed part of his plan was acquiesced in, the saving might be made at the same instant, and his services would, in that case, precede the assistance he required to continue them.

"That the Paymaster-General, who soon after resigned the appointment, wrote to your Petitioner, that he had then no power of doing any thing in the

business, but, if referred to, he was ready to say, that your Petitioner had suggested what appeared to him some useful improvements.

"That your Petitioner, in his communications to the Paymaster-General, suggested the expediency, and expressed his anxiety, that Government should have the entire credit of correcting the waste and abuses in those branches of the public expenditure; and that it was admitted to your Petitioner a short time afterwards, by a Right Honorable Member of your Honorable House, now one of his Majesty's Cabinet Ministers, 'That he, (your Petitioner), had made his communications so early, and in such a way, that Government might have taken all the credit of the measure, and all the clamor, which had arisen, might have been avoided.'

"That your Petitioner did, under a succeeding administration, lay an abstract of the aforementioned statements before the then Secretary of the Treasury, at his desire; again urging the advantages and necessity of inquiry, and the probability of saving immense sums by a local and close investigation of the establishments and expenditures his communications referred to; that these papers remained in the hands of the said Secretary whilst he continued

in office, and were returned to your Petitioner on his resignation; and that the only promise made to your Petitioner on that occasion was, that the subject should be mentioned, and the facts stated to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"That on the 29th of March, 1808, your Petitioner transmitted a memorial on the subject to the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that on the 2d of April following, your Petitioner received a letter in answer, informing him, 'That it was not in the power of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take any cognizance of the claims for remuneration therein stated, it being quite impossible for him to estimate the originality or importance of any suggestions, which may have been communicated to former administrations; or to ascertain what benefits may have been actually derived to the public from such communications.'

"That your Petitioner felt it his duty to the country, and to himself, to persevere in his applications, and that in June following, viz. 1808, he sent a copy of the said memorial to the present Paymaster-General, who informed your Petitioner, 'That the business was not in his department, but lay with the Treasury.'

"That your Petitioner therefore applied immediately to the Secretary of the Treasury, and on the 1st of July 1808, transmitted him (as directed) a letter, containing a copy of his memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and of the letters connected with it, stating in his said letter, that he was induced to think, both by the facts that had come under his observation, and the admissions that had been made to him, that he could assist greatly in carrying into effect the system he had suggested; and that as he would be contented with half the per centage on the sums actually saved, that had been charged on sums positively wasted, he was persuaded that the compensation promised him might be made to him with general assent and approbation.

"That on the 20th of August, 1808, your Petitioner received a note from the Secretary of the Treasury, saying, he should be happy to see him at the Treasury, on the Tuesday following, if that day should prove convenient to your Petitioner; that your Petitioner attended accordingly, and continued attending, by various appointments, until the 31st, when he had an interview, and some conversation on the subject of his communications.

"That it was distinctly admitted to your Pe-

titioner, by the Secretary of the Treasury, in this conversation, 'That, communications made to Government for the public advantage, and under official pledge, could have no connection with any particular administration, but stood on the broad and strong grounds of general interest and public faith;' and your Petitioner's statements, being considered not sufficiently full or detailed, he was desired to give them in a more extended and explicit form.

"That your Petitioner did, in consequence, the next day (viz. the first of September, 1808), transmit to the Treasury a comprehensive outline of his system and his facts, illustrating each head by the statement of some specific instance of apparently wasteful expence; and that he has the satisfaction to feel, that the Honourable Secretary has since urged in your Honorable House the advantages and the necessity of adopting such system, and putting a stop to such wasteful expences, in the very words almost of your Petitioner's said communications.

"That your Petitioner continued in constant attendance from this time, (viz. 1st September, 1808,) under various appointments, until the 5th of November, 1808, when he had a second interview, and conversation with the Secretary of the Treasury,

who expressed his entire coincidence in many of your Petitioner's suggestions, and advanced him 50l. for the purpose of pursuing his inquiries; directing him to take his own road and mode of doing it, to report his observations, and to be at the Treasury again at the end of a month; and observing, the inquiries must be made cautiously and privately, the subject being delicate, and not admitting of your Petitioner being cloathed with any official character.

"That your Petitioner then expressed, that his desire was for a per centage on the savings, rather than official character; and that in reply, it was observed, that in consequence of Mr. Palmer's case, there might, perhaps, be a disinclination on the part of Ministers to that; but that certainly, in proportion as your Petitioner's reports were important, he should be noticed.

"That your Petitioner set off immediately for the Coast of Sussex, from whence he commenced a progress, and a series of reports to the Treasury, which were continued to be sent and received there until the 11th of July, 1809.

"That in the course of a conversation with the Secretary of the Treasury, on the 16th of January,

1809, (his third interview) on the subject of the reports your Petitioner had then made, the accuracy and importance of several of his communications were admitted, and your Petitioner was particularly desired to get some further information relative to the contract horses: and on your Petitioner's stating that his progress had been somewhat impeded for want of money, the sum he had received having been hardly equal to his expences, the Secretary of the Treasury said, 'he would have had more if he had asked for it,' but advanced him only 20l. observing, 'that he did not know how long he might be able to continue such issues, the Chancellor of the Exchequer considering them as irregular, and that he thought it would be better for your Petitioner to have some permanent situation, and that what he had in idea was a thing by itself, something anomalous arising out of the extraordinary times they lived in.'

"That although this last sum was barely equal to pay the expences incurred by your Petitioner, by being in attendance at the Treasury since his return to town, on the 5th of December, as directed, (during which time he had employed himself in obtaining further information, actively, and as far as possible,) he felt it right to apply it to the making

of those inquiries he had been particularly desired to do, the result of which, together with several other matters connecting with the subject of his communications with the Treasury, were contained in his reports, made between this time and the 11th of March, when your Petitioner had a fourth and last interview with the Secretary.

"That at this interview the Secretary of the Treasury first entered on the subject of the War-Office, to which your Petitioner's last communications had reference, and having heard from your Petitioner some statements relating to that Department, which he took down, he proceeded to make some remarks, which your Petitioner certainly then thought had in part been grounded on his own observations, the more so as he expressed his belief, (in which your Petitioner perfectly coincided) that if he had the management of that establishment he could make many highly necessary and importantly beneficial alterations; and on your Petitioner reverting strongly to the waste, neglect, and extravagance of the Ordnance Department, the Secretary of the Treasury admitted the expediency of a controuling power being vested in the Treasury over its expenpenditure, (as had been suggested in your Petitioner's reports) in terms of such decisive import, as could

not fail to lead your Honorable House to the most serious discussions of the subject, and to the establishing of an immediate and salutary check.

" That the Secretary of the Treasury then advanced your Petitioner 50l. more, stating his apprehensions, 'that he might not have authority to continue such issues, but that his endeavours should not be wanting to find your Petitioner some more permanent employment;' and he concluded, not only with desiring your Petitioner to continue to communicate to him whatever facts and information he could collect, but with saying, 'that he, your Petitioner, should consider it his duty to do so.'

" That your Petitioner consequently did continue making such communications, and employed himself diligently in pursuit of his inquiries, until, by the expences of travelling and of attendances at the Treasury, he had, at the end of two months, again unavoidably and greatly exceeded his means, and incurred a heavy debt; and that he then transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury, (with some additional facts that had come under his knowledge,) a statement of his situation, and an application for farther advance.

"That on the 10th of May, 1809, your Petitioner received a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, repeating what he had said at their last interview, on the subject of pecuniary advance, but stating also, 'that he had made such use of your Petitioner's communications, as his own sense of public duty suggested to him; and that he should be glad to see your Petitioner placed in some situation, in which his exertions and talents might be rendered of advantage to the public,' and that this letter concluded with intimating, 'that any observations he might have made to your Petitioner, relative to the War-Office, were not (as your Petitioner supposed) grounded on his own view and knowledge of the mode of carrying on business there, but were rather drawn from him as inferences from the circumstances your Petitioner had stated to him.

"That at the very moment your Petitioner was reading the said letter, the Secretary of War and the Paymaster-General were avowing in their places, in your Honorable House, that the system of the above Office was radically bad, and thereby establishing the accuracy of your Petitioner's observations, and the inferences that had been drawn from them.

" That your Petitioner, earnestly pressing the reconsideration of his application for further pecuniary assistance, 50l. more was sent to him, on the 22d of May, by one of the principal clerks, who stated very distinctly to your petitioner, ' that the Secretary of the Treasury could not hold out to him any expectation of any additional pecuniary compensation;' but, as the aforesaid clerk then asked your Petitioner, ' to continue making his communications,' and said, ' he would always find him at his desk to receive them,' he, your Petitioner, could only suppose, and did suppose, he was to be remunerated in some way or other.

" That under the very natural impression that no person, (much less one already ill-convenienced) would be asked to continue his public exertions at his own expence, and to his own injury, your Petitioner was induced to apply what was left of this 50l. (after paying the debts he had incurred in the course of his former inquiries,) in a continuance of those enquiries; and agreeably to the suggestions of the clerk, who brought him this money, soon after, viz. the 8th of June, delivered to him at his seat in the Treasury a report, containing the facts and the information he had collected, which report, (after he had communicated

with the Secretary of the Treasury,) was received on the stipulated condition that your Petitioner should be distinctly informed of the opinion entertained of its importance: and that your Petitioner having waited several days for this promised communication, without obtaining it, and having had in his view some facts of apparently high consequence to the revenue, returned to the Coast of Kent, for the purpose of further investigating them, from whence he transmitted, on the 11th of July, the reports, the receipt of which was thankfully acknowledged in an official letter sent to him on the 15th of that month, in which letter your Petitioner was also informed, 'That although the Secretary of the Treasury could not hold out to him the smallest expectation any additional pecuniary compensation, or remuneration, for any further communications he might make to him, he would, on the event of receiving such communications, as far as lay in his power, and the case might require, make such use of them as the duty of his situation, and the public interest might require.'

" That your Petitioner, seeing he had little hopes of his future expences being allowed him, and finding his private circumstances materially affected by many considerable and unavoidable expences he had

been at in collecting the information, facts, and observations he had transmitted to Government, for their use, and the service of the country, returned to Town, and having, in the course of his progress, had occasion to remark, and to suggest the expediency of turning a sinecure and useless appointment into an active and effective one, he applied at the Treasury on his arrival on the subject of that situation, which, it so happened, had become vacant during his absence, stating, in support of his application, 'that the revenue might be greatly increased by new modelling and dividing the office, and that he would undertake to do more than double the present duties of it, at half the present salary, and on condition too, of not receiving even that, until it had accrued from the advantages arising from his official exertions."

"That your Petitioner was told in answer to this application, 'That the situation was a *political one*, and that, from the consequence of several parties that had applied for it, his application was not likely to succeed, and that he had better withdraw it; and that although the business had been neglected in consequence of the infirmities of the gentleman, who lately held the appointment, there was no doubt the Duke of Portland (the then first Lord of the

Treasury) would give it to some one, who would do the duties of it actively.'

"That your Petitioner felt himself called on by this answer to remark, in a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, that 'whilst the application made by him for employment would prove that he only sought it with a view to the public advantage, it remained for the consideration of Government if that application was well rejected on the ground of the situation being a *political one*;' and that your Petitioner has had no further communication with the said Secretary of the Treasury since that day, viz. the 8th of August, 1809.

"That notwithstanding the declared intention of Government at that time, relative to the disposal of this appointment, it turns out now, that it was not so disposed of, but that a bill has lately been brought into your Honorable House for new modelling the office, as was recommended by your Petitioner when he made his application.

"That on the 12th and 15th of January, 1810, your Petitioner wrote to the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, stating briefly his zeal, his services, and the substance of his correspondence and con-

versations with the Secretary of the Treasury, and applying to be remunerated; and that on the 15th he received for answer, 'that the Chancellor of the Exchequer begged leave to acquaint him, in reply to his letter of that morning, that being himself entirely unacquainted with the circumstances stated in the first communication to him, and consequently unable to answer his application without some inquiries, it was not in his power to decide on his claims for remuneration immediately;' and your Petitioner has to express to your Honorable House his apprehensions and his regret, that those inquiries did not furnish the Chancellor of the Exchequer with all the facts and the information your Petitioner was desirous on the public account, and on his own, to have offered to his consideration.

"That your Petitioner has been steadily anxious to possess Government of those facts, which others have brought forward in a way to inflame the public mind; that all the subjects to which his communications to Government had reference, have become objects of high national interest; and that his reports and communications pointed at considerable savings that have been subsequently made, and at immense ones that might, and therefore ought to, have been, amounting together to many millions.

[That the per centage your Petitioner asked, and claims, amounts now to an important sum, which sum your Petitioner humbly conceives the public interest and public faith intitle him to expect and to receive; and, that your Petitioner has a claim on the justice of Government, and the Legislature, for remuneration for his time, his exertions, and his services, the sum that was advanced him not having nearly covered the expences he incurred in collecting and transmitting information for the public benefit.[1]]

"That your Petitioner submits his facts, and his case, to your Honorable House, with the greatest deference, with the most profound respect, and with the most perfect reliance on its wisdom and its justice; humbly praying your Honorable House to take them into its consideration, in any and such way as may be most consonant to its forms and its disposition, and to afford your Petitioner such protection, and such redress, as under the circumstances of his situation he may appear entitled to. And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

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[1] This paragraph was omitted in the petition presented to the House.

H.

Copy of a Letter to the Minister—the Answer—and concluding Observations.

No. 1.

Copy of a Letter from J. J. V. to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"Sir,

"Mr. Dundas having had the kindness to inform me, that he had done me the honor to forward to you a letter I wrote to him on the 13th ult. I should have waited in patient comfort the result, had not the circumstances of my situation been such as to preclude the possibility of my receiving any benefit from procrastinated relief.

"I inclose from a series of reports transmitted by me to the Treasury, and which (from the letters you have honored me with) it appears you have not seen, copies from those parts, which pointed specifically at two savings, since made, amounting together, (under narrowed reductions,) to 83,433l. per annum; and as *I can claim, by incontrovertible evidence, the merit of suggesting them to Government long before they were adopted*, I trust confidently in its justice, that I shall be remunerated in proportion to the advantages that have accrued to the public from them.

" I inclose also the copy of a letter I had the honor of receiving from the Secretary of the Treasury, in December, 1808, (See C.) from which it will be seen that my communications to him on the subject of the Waste and Abuses in the Military Establishments and Expenditures formed the basis of the information and the remarks he submitted to Parliament in 1810, when the Army and Ordnance Estimates were before the House.

" *It is also proper for me to remark, that the reports, from which the transmitted extracts are taken, point at many other as material and necessary reductions as those that have been actually made, and on that ground may probably have some claim to your attention.* Permit me to add too, that it is not possible the extent of my pretensions can be fairly decided on, until the whole of their contents are known, though the justice of them has been admitted by every person who has seen the general statement of the services on which they are founded.

" *It is material to me also to observe, that it was stated to me in a letter I had the honor of receiving, by your directions, on the 2d of April,* 1808, (See A. No. 4.] ' *that it was quite impossible for you to estimate the originality or importance of any*

suggestions I might have communicated to other administrations; or to ascertain what benefit might have been actually derived to the public from such communications;' because, on the present occasion, these observations appear decisive in my favor, THE SUGGESTIONS ON WHICH MY APPLICATION IS NOW FOUNDED HAVING BEEN MADE TO GOVERNMENT DURING YOUR ADMINISTRATION; *their originality being marked by the time the date of their communication is antecedent to their adoption; and their importance being ascertained by the extent of 'the benefit actually derived to the public from them,' that benefit 'manifestly amounting to 83,433l. per annum.'*

"On the low and fair per centage of one and a quarter, (*being the half only of what has been paid, in some instances, on the Waste my communications tended to check,*) my claims, on these *abstract savings*, amount to 1042l.; and if the remuneration is estimated by time, calculating at the rate I was allowed on being employed, and reckoning till *the* 15*th of July*, 1809, *only, on which day my last report was made and received at the Treasury*, there remains due to me 330l.; but I satisfy myself it will be taken into consideration, *that double the sum might have been saved to the public;* and that

my expences in soliciting remuneration have been considerable, and bear hard on me.

"I have the honor to be, Sir, &c.

"10*th Sept.* 1810.

"To the Right Hon. S. PERCEVAL."

No. 2.

MR. PERCEVAL's ANSWER.

"*Downing-Street*, 12*th Sept.* 1810.

"Sir,

"Mr. Perceval desires me to state to you, in reply to your letter of the 10th of this month, that he cannot encourage you to expect any further assistance than what you have already received.

"I am, Sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"THOMAS BROOKSBANK.

"J. J. VASSAR, Esq."

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

HAVING been placed, by the conduct of his Majesty's Ministers, in a situation in which I have felt it my duty to submit the foregoing facts and documents to the public, it is necessary, and it will be expected, that I should offer a few observations and comments on them; and first, I trust it will be obvious, that I have forborne making them public, under the laudable, though disappointed hopes, that great and material advantages would have accrued to the country, from which Government would have acquired great and material credit and popularity; and, that something like justice would have been done to myself.

Though the personal claims or grievances of an individual, (much more so humble an individual as myself,) would in themselves be matters of infinitely too little consequence to mention, they become important when they connect with, and are inseparable from, the questions and considerations, "if the public interest has not been neglected, and the public faith broken;" and as that part of my subject, which relates most to myself, from being of the least consequence, will take up the least room, I shall enter on, and dismiss, it first.

It will be seen, that in 1804, the then Paymaster-General "promised me adequate compensation, if my suggestions were adopted;" that he subsequently "admits I had suggested what appeared to him some useful improvements;" and lastly, that he states, on leaving office, "that he was ready, if referred to, to give a similar statement to the succeeding administration." Under the circumstances that then occurred, this was

all that I could expect from that Right Honorable Gentleman; and it remains for me to believe, that had he continued in office, he would not have considered suggestions useful, without adopting them, or dropped the investigation of "communications admitted to have commenced with pointing at improvements."

It will be seen, that the facts and the subject were laid before the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the 29th of March, 1808; and it will seem to appear, from his letter of the 2nd of April following, that he either did not attend to them, or, that he did not comprehend them.

It will be seen, that on being subsequently submitted, (on the suggestions of Mr. C. Long, and Mr. R. Dundas,) to the Secretary of the Treasury, in 1808, that Mr. Huskisson, differing in opinion from Mr. Perceval, admitted, (and correctly did so,) "that communications made to Government for the public benefit, and under

official pledge, could have no connection with any particular administration, but stood on the broad and strong grounds of general interest and public faith."

It will be seen, that the pledge, "of compensation to me, if my communications were deemed important," was renewed to me by Mr. Huskisson; and there is no occasion for recurring to his admissions to prove their importance, it being *fully* established by the facts themselves.

It will be seen, that having communicated to Government much *information of material public consequence*, under the promises of compensation, and the FAIREST expectation of employment, that the expectancy which was held out to me was deceptive, and that the promises made to me have not been fulfilled.

It will be seen, that the trifles I received, instead of remunerating me for my time, were not even adequate to my expences;

and it will be felt, that they were issued to me in a way, calculated to check, rather than to encourage, my zeal, and to retard, rather than assist, my exertions.

It will be felt, that Mr. Huskisson, *since he retired from office*, has taken, and has had credit in Parliament, for many observations and suggestions, which I claim the credit of having submitted to him, when Secretary of the Treasury; and I think it will be felt, that the country might have been more benefitted, if they had been more attended to then.

I think it will appear, that both the credit and the compensation I am entitled to have been unfairly and unwisely kept from me; and that the principles and the faith, from which in private and commercial transactions it would be considered inaccurate to deviate, should be held most sacred by those, who fill the high, important, and dignified offices of the State.

Having said thus much on a subject which I have been anxious to avoid, and that I have been driven to touch on, I enter on the duty circumstances impose on me of submitting to the public some observations on the facts and the documents in their more important bearings, and as they relate to the interests of the country; in doing which, it is necessary for me, in the first place, to remark, *that in* 1810, *Mr. Huskisson, having retired from office, finds fault with Ministers for not making those retrenchments I suggested the expediency of to him in* 1808, *when he was a member of the administration;* since it appears to show, that if he was unable in his official situation to effect those retrenchments, the country has suffered by the delay of those exertions he has recently made to enforce them in his public character as a representative of the people. And here is the place to observe, that both Mr. Huskisson and Mr. Rose admit and advise now, exactly what I suggested and recommended to Government

some years ago, namely, "that the supplies should be sought for in retrenchment, instead of taxation."

Whence this tardiness of ministers has arisen is now a matter of more mystery, perhaps, than of moment; but the losses the country has sustained by it will long be felt, and are deeply to be regretted.

The documentary papers, in the former part of this publication, will not have been read without its having been remarked, that the statements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary of the Treasury, are completely at variance, for "Mr. Perceval disclaims all knowledge of those papers and those facts," of which, "Mr. Huskisson states he had made, and would continue to make, such use, as the duty of his situation and the public interest required."

It is not for me to unravel these tangled strings of ministerial contradictions, but it is for me to feel, and to lament, that there is error somewhere, error that has led to personal injustice as it affects myself, and to public injury as it has operated on the revenue of the country.

In complaining of injustice to myself, however, I am not to withhold justice from others, and I would rather suffer wrong than do it. I did, I do, and I always shall think, that Mr. Huskisson had (as far as I had an opportunity of remarking,) the interests of the country fairly and sincerely in view; but yet I am much too plain a man to be able to reconcile this opinion exactly with the non-communication to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of the reports, facts, and information, of which he states "he had made, and would, to the extent of his power, make use, to promote those

interests;" and much less do I comprehend how to reconcile it with the high sentiments of respect with which I have ever regarded, and shall ever contemplate, the character of Mr. Perceval, that he decided against my claims, on, *obviously*, imperfect evidence, and barred every avenue against facts and information offered for the public benefit, and glaringly pointing to it.

Respect would lead me to impute this to a casual want of attention, (which, by the bye, is but a sorry sort of excuse,) if fact did not fix on it the marks of deliberative and confirmed negligence; and it has become essential, as I think, for Parliament to investigate promptly and thoroughly, and for the country to be informed immediately, and distinctly, to what extent this neglect has operated, and to what amount the people have suffered by it; not for the purposes of retrospective accusation, but with a view to such present and prospective regulations

and arrangements, as circumstances have rendered indispensible.

Whatever credit may be attached to my communications, great weight will be affixed to Mr. Huskisson's opinion, and the public will, therefore, read, (or at least they ought,) with no small degree of interest, my suggestions, and his observations, relative to the Expenditure of the Ordnance Department, because they touch the branches instead of the twigs of evil, and show to demonstration where the pruning-hook should be applied. It is a sad waste of time to keep picking off the leaves when the bough itself is faulty; and till the spring is purified, the stream will never run clear. Reform should begin at the head, and not the end of departments, for that which would soon reach the bottom, is slow in ascending.

When will the eyes of ministers be opened? and, When will they see the expediency, the

necessity of sacrificing all personal and relative considerations to their duties? When will they feel that faction is fed and fattened by their errors, their negligence, their official jealousies, and the effects of them? and, When will the loyal be relieved from the pain of finding it a question, whether it does not cost the country fully as much, to spare the departmental consequence of the members of administration, as it does to support the dignity of the crown? Never will this happen, never will the country be materially eased of its burthens, whilst in the place of real delicacy, which ornaments but never hides truth, is substituted a false delicacy, as discreditable to the minds it subjugates, as it is injurious to the interests of the King and the people.

The disinclination shown by Mr. Huskisson, when in office, to enter on the subject of the Commissariat Department, goes far to prove the necessity of entering on it; and it was highly gratifying to me, to hear

him express his expectation, when the Army Estimates for this year were before the House, that a reduction would have been made in the great establishments. It is proper and desirable that the Parliament and the country should be clearly and fairly shown, what has been the expence of this *check*, (as he called it,) and what the amount of the savings effected by it. This is the way, indeed, in which every establishment should be tried, and many, I believe, would then be found a burthen on the country, which are held up as beneficial to it. Unfortunately a necessary retrenchment is never made, but an unnecessary expence follows it; and I take upon me to say, that all the effect the *Home* Establishment of the Commissariat is calculated to produce, (IF ANY,) might have been obtained without loading the country with one shilling of the expence. Will it be contended, that the officers of the army are incompetent to their duties? or, that they are totally void of those principles, which are a security for the performance of

them? and, as for checks—if the military establishments, under the regulations of the military departments, are not competent, and are not, in point of fact, actual and sufficient checks; neither the officers of his Majesty's army, nor his ministers, are fit for their situations.

Never was there a time when the nation was so loaded with *non-effective and half-effective establishments; and the sums yet to be saved by due and necessary regulations of this head of expence, would amount to an immense sum; a million and a half per annum at the least.* This is a kind of reform that is indispensible, and a species of retrenchment that will be found productive; and if ministers do not take more prompt and decisive measures to establish a *general*, *operative*, and *felt* system of economy, it must be effected by the wisdom of Parliament, or, (what every loyal and honest man deprecates,) it will be brought about by the distresses, the discontent and the act of the people.

I would ask any, and every cavalry General, if our most expensive regiments are the fittest for service; and I would ask the minister, if it is proper we should keep paying for toys and frippery, when there is an admitted difficulty in finding the means to pay for necessaries; I would ask too, and in the name of the country, what, under an existing system of mounting the cavalry, is the cost of a regiment when it is fit to be sent into the field.

In referring to the subject of "the retrenchments in official expences," which formed a part of my communications, correspondence, and conversations with Mr. Huskisson, I wish to avoid all possibility of being misunderstood as to the mode in which I conceived they ought to be made. It was, and is, my opinion, that in most of the offices the business might, and would, be done quicker and better, if the establishment was reduced one-third, and in many, if it was reduced two-thirds; and that in some of the newly created and detached

branches, there is little or no business at all. A reduction of this sort would produce a considerable sum, but I should estimate only half of it as a saving, for I do not think the salaries of any of the clerks, in any of the public offices, are too high, and am sure that, in many instances, they are greatly too low. Every public allowance should be liberal, but every public appointment should be fully effective; and, I am satisfied, that if the moiety of the savings, arising from the lopping off the redundant and the useless, was applied to the increase of the incomes of the necessary and the diligent, more business would be done, and with more ease and correctness, in six months, than is now done in twelve.

I will not, and, indeed, I could not here, go into a detail of those numerous abuses in the various military establishments, and the waste in their different expenditures, to which the outlines of my system, and the facts stated in my communications have,

or should have, directed the attention of the minister; but, I may remark, and I think it will be assented to, that the retrenchments pointed at were as essential as a matter of policy, as they were of finance; since, it will not be contended, I presume, that the morals of the people is a subject in which the Government of the country has no concern or interest: and, since it will appear, that it has been as unnecessary, as it is unwise, to look to public vices, as a foundation for raising the public supplies. When millions might have been, and may be saved, by checking and correcting evil, why promote it? and why resort (for example) to the pernicious plan of raising two or three hundred thousand pounds by a lottery, when a due attention to economy would produce more than quadruple the sum?

On being forced into publicity, and on retiring from it, I hope I may be forgiven for the anxiety I feel that my public sentiments and opinions may not be miscon-

strued, and that my motives and objects may not be misunderstood: I am anxious for a reform of the existing abuses, because I continue to think, that "revolution is a pestilence, arising from those corruptions and evils in a constitution, which reform has neglected to remedy," and, "I wish (as I have always done) this reform to originate with the Executive power, and to be perfected by the wisdom of the Legislative power;" for, venerating the constitution, and all the component parts of it, I abhor every species of reform that tends to change it, as much as I admire that sort of reformation, which, emanating from its own inherent and competent powers, is necessary, and should be directed, to its preservation.

The steady desire I have shown, that Government should have the credit of correcting those abuses, to which others were taking pains to turn the public eye, might have entitled me to more attention from minis-

ters; and the public principles that led me to offer my facts to Parliament, lead me to regret, that the reception of them was barred by the act of a party, against whom, on the behalf of the public, as well as myself, they exhibited some grounds of complaint. I may also be permitted to express surprize, (respect for the Chancellor of the Exchequer being the ground of that surprize,) that personal and public feelings did not prevent him from stopping, *in limine*, a petition, which bore, in some degree, the shape of accusation, which complained of injustice, and which contained facts the House might have deemed important; the more so, as both "the matter and the stile of that petition" were admitted by one of his Right Honorable colleagues to be perfectly proper and unexceptionable." I may be permitted to hope too, respect for the House being the ground for that hope, that, when the petition shall have been read in this publication, it will appear, that the objection taken to its being read in the